

**Chavit out of jueteng? He's lying, says Erap**

**By Armand N. Nocum**

GUSTED President Estrada yesterday said he did not believe that his nemesis and once close friend, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, was no CHAVIT/A17

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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**Common folk help turtles find way back to the sea**

**By Volt Contreras**

A WAVE of compassion for stranded sea turtles is giving environmentalists reasons to cheer.

Two environmental advocacy groups separately reported to the INQUIRER the silent heroics of common folk who have rescued, nur-

COMMON/A17

# AFP graft eyed in murder

**Let axe fall where it may, says Palace**

**By Juliet Labog-Javellana**

MALACANANG is determined to show that no one is untouchable in the Armed Forces.

Responding to reports that certain generals are facing investigation by US authorities for supposedly having huge cash deposits abroad, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement: "The present controversies hounding the AFP should be taken in a positive light, even as we deal with these issues in the spirit of fairness and due process. Let the cold evidence be examined with judiciousness, and the axe fall where it may."

Malacañang, however, ignored reports that three Cabinet-level officials also had questionable cash deposits abroad, as alleged earlier by ex-military rebel Rex Robles.

In his statement, Bunye said nothing about Robles' claim, which the latter had attributed to US authorities.

Bunye is among a small group of government officials accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo in Vietnam for the Asia-Europe summit.

According to Bunye, the "important thing" is to convey to the soldiers and to the whole nation that "there are no sacred cows in

LET AXE/A18



**ASEM 5**  
Historic gathering in Hanoi, Vietnam, brings for the first time leaders of 39 countries from two continents during the Asia-Europe 5 meeting which aims to help each other address security threats, international trade and the global environment. President Arroyo joins her counterparts on Friday to watch a cultural program presented by their Vietnamese host. (Story on Page A2)

**Probers see double cross in wealthy colonel's slay**

**By Fe Zamora**

CORRUPTION in the military has become so vicious it may have provoked the murder of an Army officer.

Investigators said they were pursuing the angle that former Army logistics chief Col. Raul Heredia was killed after he allegedly failed to give other officers their share of a commission from a "big contract."

"Corruption, yes, that is the angle we are pursuing," one of the investigators told the INQUIRER, referring to the murder that has remained unsolved the past 10 months.

Solution of the Heredia murder has gained urgency with recurrent allegations about a supposed web of corruption in the Armed Forces. One senior officer, a former military comptroller, is now facing investigation by the Ombudsman for unexplained wealth.

The murder victim's uncle, retired Col. Agapito Heredia Sr., former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), said it had been 10 months since the murder, but neither gunman nor mastermind had been arrested.

"I am disappointed. Raul is a ranking military officer on duty. Why is nobody investigating this case?" the older Heredia, a survivor of the Bataan Death March, complained.

At least four investigating groups had looked into Heredia's death and discounted several angles, one being that he might have been killed by a communist hit-squad. Another theory probers looked into was the love angle because Heredia was separated from his wife. But this, too, had been discarded.

In the early morning of Dec. 23, 2003, armed men aboard a motorcycle gunned down Heredia just as he was getting out of his car outside his parents' house on V. Luciano Street, Proj. 4, Quezon.

He had come from his quarters in Camp Aguinaldo, about a 10-minute drive away.

After his death, Heredia was found to have allegedly maintained P14 million in total cash deposits with the Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings and Loans Association Inc. (AFPSLAI) and with the Air Materiel Savings and Loans Association Inc. (AMSLAI).

The investigation also showed that Heredia was the owner of a resort in Los Baños, Laguna, and condo units in Baguio City and Makati City, and had several houses being constructed in Baras, Rizal. He had also owned several vehicles, in-

AFP GRAFT/A18

## 'Conversion' is source of AFP corruption

**By Alcuin Papa**

THE PRACTICE of "conversion" is the primary source of corruption in the Armed Forces and accounts for the loss in the military budget of hundreds of millions of pesos, an ex-military rebel said yesterday.

This was how Rex Robles, a retired Navy commodore, explained the practice: A unit or office commander requests supplies or services and fills out the corresponding forms. The goods or services are not actually delivered, but these are certified so by an inspection officer. The check payment for the goods or services is "converted" to cash by the unit or office, or, in some cases, by the supplier of the supposed goods whose gives the requesting officers their own cut.

"The ones involved are the ones who run the office or that command," Robles told reporters. "The commander himself, the comptroller and some people like the finance officer—all of them are involved."

He said the military developed

CONVERSION/A18



**MAATHAI, environmental activist, first African woman to win.**

## Nobel Peace Prize goes to Kenyan woman

OSLO, Norway—Kenyan environmental activist Wangari Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for her work as leader of the Green Belt Movement, which has sought to empower women, better the environment and fight corruption in Africa for almost 30 years.

Maathai, Kenya's deputy environment minister, is the first African woman to win the prize since it was first awarded in 1901. She has been internationally recognized for her struggle for democracy, and gained recent attention for a campaign against land grabbing and rapacious de-

NOBEL/A6

## We did it, CPP/NPA says of Tabara slay

**By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**  
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau  
and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.  
PDI Visayas Bureau

IT WAS our men who killed him.

Thirteen days after Arturo Tabara was gunned down in a Quezon City parking lot, the Communist Party of the Philippines yesterday claimed responsibility for the death of the break-away leftist leader.

It said a unit of the New People's Army which had been ordered to take custody of Tabara "was forced to give battle and defend itself when Tabara drew his firearm."

Nineteen-year-old Stephen Ong, Tabara's companion and boyfriend of his daughter, "was likewise slain as he was drawing his gun," the underground party said in a statement posted on its website.

CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said officials of the Philippine National Police made it appear that Tabara and

Ong were not armed "in order to portray them as defenseless victims and gain public sympathy for them."

When asked why it took the rebels days to admit responsibility, Rosal said the CPP waited for the full reports of the NPA arresting team.

"We [had] to study all the details," Rosal explained in a mobile phone interview.

The CPP statement said the NPA unit had come to arrest Tabara so he could face a "Special People's Court" to answer criminal cases and complaints of human rights violations allegedly filed against him.

Police have said both Tabara and Ong were unarmed when they were shot in the parking lot of SM Fairview on Sept. 26.

Colleagues of the slain leftist leader denied that Tabara and Ong were carrying guns when they were shot.

"He (Tabara) was not armed and especially his companion, WE DID IT/A17

**AFP Ranks**

General	P22,086
Lieutenant General	20,265
Major General	19,381
Brigadier General	18,687
Colonel	17,835
Lieutenant Colonel	17,113
Major	16,464
Captain	15,828
First Lieutenant	15,263
Second Lieutenant	14,597
Prob. 2nd Lieutenant	13,391
Colonel	12,929
Chief Master Sergeant	12,604
Sr. Master Sergeant	11,797
Master Sergeant	11,012
Technical Sergeant	10,204
Staff Sergeant	9,358
Sergeant	8,821
Corporal	8,068
Private, First Class	7,621
Private	7,190
Enlisted Soldier	5,833

\*Note: Effective Jan. 1, 2003 based on RA 9137 not included are longevity pay, meal, combat, clothing, housing and other allowances and fringe benefits.

Source: Department of Budget and Management

## PAF pilot saves 100 GMA guards

A PHILIPPINE Air Force pilot saved the lives of more than 100 elite presidential guards yesterday when he made an emergency landing after the plane they were traveling in lost power in two of four engines, an official said.

Capt. Manuel Zambrano, pilot of the C-130, shut down the inner right-wing engine when it showed an uncontrollable rise in

PAF PILOT/A18

## Only one lawmaker supports abolition of Congress

**By Carlito Pablo, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine Avendaño**

EXPECTEDLY, only one member of Congress, a party-list representative, is buying the proposal from President Macapagal-Arroyo's lawyer for Congress to be abolished in order to help the country cope with its fiscal difficulties.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said he agreed with lawyer Romulo Macalintal that Congress ought to be done away with as he said Filipinos had come to regard the assembly as "a pit full of snakes and crocodiles where the rich, powerful and influential fight over the nation's wealth."

He said many also considered Congress "a bastion of corruption" that will not be missed at all.

Citing his experience in the House, Beltran said Congress was also a failure in passing laws for the benefit of the Filipino people.

But Beltran was alone among his congressional colleagues in finding "nothing tragic or insulting" about Macalintal's proposal as various senators and representatives yesterday took umbrage and came down hard on Macalintal and on Beltran himself.

Outraged legislators said the proposal was an assault on a democratic institution that is Congress and warned that it would plunge the country into revolution or another period of dictatorship.

Even Malacañang, apprehensive over what prickly lawmakers might do with its legislative agenda, hurriedly distanced itself from the proposal of Macalintal,

ONLY ONE/A6



## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Southeastern Luzon. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

## Second FRONT PAGE

Text in your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rain	North Mindanao	Cloudy with Rain
Batangas	Cloudy with Rain	Palawan	Cloudy with Rain
Taguig	Partly Cloudy	Palawan	Cloudy with Rain
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	Palawan	Cloudy with Rain
Clark	Cloudy with Rain	Palawan	Cloudy with Rain
Manila	Cloudy with Rain	Palawan	Cloudy with Rain
Baguio	Cloudy with Rain	Palawan	Cloudy with Rain
Subic Bay	Cloudy with Rain	Palawan	Cloudy with Rain
San Francisco	Cloudy with Rain	Palawan	Cloudy with Rain
San Jose	Cloudy with Rain	Palawan	Cloudy with Rain

## Edu told: No, sir, you can't be both TV emcee and gov't exec

THE JUSTICE department has affirmed a Malacañang ruling stopping actor Edu Manzano from continuing to appear in his television programs after his appointment as chief of the Optical Media Board.

In a legal opinion dated Oct. 4, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said Republic Act 6713, or the Code of Conduct for Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, pro-

hibited Manzano from continuing to practice his private profession.

"Chairman Manzano is expected to devote his entire time and energy in the performance of his duties and is then precluded from... other pursuits or occupations such as acting or appearing in television programs," Gonzalez said.

Chief state counsel Ricardo Paras III said the DOJ issued the

opinion after Manzano appealed Malacañang's decision barring him from appearing in his ABS-CBN Channel 2 television shows.

Manzano is a co-host of the daily noontime "Masayang Tanghal-Bayan" program and also appears in other ABS-CBN shows.

On March 15, Deputy Executive Secretary Manuel Gaithe ruled that he should no longer appear

in these shows.

Paras said Manzano would have to resign if he insists on continuing with his private profession.

He noted that RA 6713 prohibits public officials from engaging in "the private practice of their profession unless authorized by the Constitution or law, provided that such practice will not conflict or tend to conflict

with official functions."

Paras said Manzano argued that the profession being referred were the kind that required going through a system of government examinations. The DOJ disagreed.

"Contrary to his assertion, the word profession should be taken in its usual signification to mean any principal calling," Gonzalez said.

Philip C. Tuleza



MANZANO

## Asia-Europe meet opens in Hanoi

By Michael Lim Ubac

HANOI (via PLDT)—The fifth Asia-Europe Meeting formally opened yesterday in this Vietnamese capital attended by representatives from 39 countries, including the European Commission (EC).

President Macapagal-Arroyo noted that nearly 50 years after World War II, leaders of Asia and Europe finally joined hands in a symbolic move to help each other address security threats, international trade and global environmental challenges.

The colorful opening ceremonies were, however, dampened by several factors: the European Union's opposition to the accession of Myanmar to Asem; terror attacks on Thursday, which hit an Indonesia embassy in Paris and beach resorts packed with Israeli tourists on the Red Sea; and the extreme security measures being implemented by the Vietnamese government, which virtually kept out mediamen from most summit events.

Heads of state and government arrived at the Ba Dinh Hall located at the heart of Hanoi on board black limousines.

Ms Arroyo, who donned a

cream suit, is the only woman-head of state attending the summit.

Except for cameramen and photographers (two per country), mediamen were banned from covering the opening ceremonies, working lunch and all four sessions, including the gala dinner, yesterday.

On the agenda of the closed-door sessions were: international development and new global challenges such as the Kyoto protocol, future of Asem, promoting the Asia-Europe economic partnership in the context of globalization and open regionalism, and cultural diversity and national cultures in the age of information technology and globalization.

President Arroyo was accompanied by presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Ms Arroyo supported Myanmar's accession into Asem on Thursday, saying Asem should "promote a positive image for our respective countries and regions, such as providing Myanmar with the opportunity to engage the rest of the world."

## Task force versus tax credit scam faces ax

By Michelle V. Remo

THE CONTROVERSIAL task force assigned to investigate cases of tax credit fraud now faces abolition unless Malacañang extends the life of the embattled agency which expired last Oct. 7.

The Special Presidential Task Force 156 (SPTF) said it would begin turning over its responsibilities to the Department of Justice if it fails to get a word from Malacañang soon that its life would be extended.

The task force, however, has 30 days to wind down its operations before formally shutting down.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong earlier recommended the extension of the life of the SPTF, saying it was important in the fight against tax credit fraud.

She, however, proposed that supervision of the SPTF be transferred to the Office of the President because it was improper for the finance department to "police itself."

SPTF Executive Director Alan Ventura said he still hopes Malacañang would extend its life, considering the volume of cases it is pursuing.

"What we are doing now is making inventory of documents.

But it is still too early in the day to say (that SPTF will not get an extension)," Ventura said.

SPTF, created during the Estrada administration after the discovery of P5.3 billion worth of lost revenues due to tax credit fraud in the 1990s, is being accused burning witnesses and deliberately bungling its own cases in exchange for some favors.

SPTF, an attached agency of the Department of Finance, is also being criticized for not winning a single tax credit fraud case despite its P2-million monthly budget and for the recent dismissals of its cases because of "lack of interest" to prosecute.

But officials of the SPTF have strongly denied the accusations.

The Senate blue ribbon committee had initiated an inquiry into operations of the controversial agency.

After being battered in the Senate inquiry, SPTF Co-chair Innocencio Ferrer Jr. was sacked by Mala-

cañang. His camp, however, said Ferrer tendered his resignation.

Tax credit fraud witnesses, including Marlene Marquez and Philip Santiago of the DOP's One-Stop Shop Duty and Credit Drawback Center, and Felix Chingkie have criticized the SPTF for tagging them as suspects in the tax

credit fraud cases, saying the move could be meant to deliberately weaken their credibility and the cases themselves.

Marquez processes applications for tax credit while Santiago keeps OSS records and documents. OSS is a unit under the DOP that processes applications for tax credits.

## Former top Shell official included in Chingkie case

By Armand N. Nocum

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo has ordered the inclusion of Pacifico Cruz, former general manager of Philipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., as respondent in the P5.3-billion tax credit scam involving the Chingkie group of companies.

Then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto had recommended the dropping of Cruz from the graft case earlier brought before the Sandiganbayan.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio expressed surprise at Desierto's decision to exclude Cruz from the case.

As a result, the Sandiganbayan granted in 2001 the Ombudsman's motion, citing jurisprudence stating that a prosecutor is "under no compulsion to file a particular criminal information where he is not convinced that he has evidence to support the allegations thereof."

But Villa-Ignacio disagrees.

"Ombudsman Marcelo wants him reinstated because Shell is among the biggest users" of the allegedly spurious tax credit certificates (TCCs), Villa-Ignacio said.

"We are surprised by what happened," he said of the exclusion of Cruz, who is accused of allegedly making the decision for Shell to use the allegedly fake TCCs to pay its tax liabilities, among others.

Villa-Ignacio issued the statement amid fears that the culprits and the beneficiaries in the multi-billion tax credit scam have been allowed to get off the hook.

They noted that couple Faustino and Gloria Chingkie have not yet been formally charged in court.

Chingkie, chair of the Chingkie group of companies, reportedly hatched the scam to defraud the government of billions of pesos in revenues.

A TCC serves as a proof of a company's claim for tax credits, which are granted either to exporting firms that are entitled to duty-free privileges or to those that have tax refunds.

In the case of the 11 Chingkie companies, Faustino Chingkie was found to have conspired with government officials to secure TCCs even if they were "not qualified or legally entitled to avail of tax credit."

Graft charges were filed against Faustino, his brother Felix and Rosita and as well as Antonio P. Belicena, former undersecretary and executive director of the Department of Finance, Uldarico Andutan, among others, before the Sandiganbayan six years ago.

Felix used to head the company, but was unseated by Faustino in 1995. The Ombudsman recently decided to grant Felix and his wife immunity, after the latter turned state witness in the tax credit cases.

## Mandaue mayor denies owning raided warehouse

By Jhunrex Napallacan and Joene Bulambot, PDI V. Bureau and Philip C. Tuleza

CEBU CITY—A fuming Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Quano yesterday denied ownership of one of the three warehouses used as shabu laboratory by an international drug syndicate for the manufacture of shabu.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez who was quoted as the source of the report, however, denied saying that the mayor owns one of the warehouses raided by the police in Mandaue City.

When contacted yesterday, Gonzalez said that what he said on Thursday was that a relative of Quano owned the warehouse.

Gonzalez said he never mentioned the name of Mayor Quano because the "Quano family" could be anyone other than the mayor since there are many Quanos in Mandaue City.

However, the Inquirer had specifically asked Gonzalez during the press briefing if it was true that the mayor owned the warehouse and he answered in the affirmative.

He even volunteered the information that Mayor Quano also owned the wharf.

Gonzalez told the same thing to other reporters who interviewed him on Thursday morning.

But Gonzalez yesterday clari-

fied that what he said was that he received an information from Cebu about the existence of a warehouse allegedly owned by the Quano family, which is also located near a seaport also owned by the Quano family.

Mayor Quano said he was shocked when he read the news yesterday linking him to one of the warehouses raided by the police on Sept. 24.

He said he would file a P100 million libel suit against Gonzalez and the Cebu Daily News which headlined the story on Thursday.

"My family is upset. I am upset about the report. There is no truth to it. In fact, I have evidence to prove that the family does not own any of the warehouses referred to," the mayor said in a press conference yesterday.

"I am willing to submit myself to an investigation (and) lifestyle check... My lawyers are studying what legal moves we should take. This is a case of irresponsible journalism," Quano said.

Gonzalez had said that the warehouse supposedly owned by the Quano family was rented or leased by one of the suspects arrested in the raid.

Quano said records would show that he did not own any of the warehouses raided.

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# Labor department rules out new round of wage increases

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By Martin Marfil

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment yesterday ruled out granting a new round of wage increases, saying that the regional wage boards have just issued wage orders.

DOLE spokesperson and Assistant Director Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio said there is no existing "supervening" event to justify a second round of wage increases this year.

"Our position here at DOLE has not changed. The regional wage boards have issued wage orders the last four months and it is now our focus that these wage orders are implemented, rather than talk again about a new round of wage increases," Bitonio said in a press conference.

Militant workers, citing the recent increases in oil prices, are pushing for a legislated P125 a day wage increase nationwide. Also this week, a Social Weather Stations survey said that hunger stalks about 15 percent of Filipino households.

Bitonio, however, said the issue of increasing the minimum wage is a complex decision which takes into account the individual needs of workers and the capacity of the employers to absorb the increases "within the larger context of the economy."

## BoC forms anti-smuggle task groups

CUSTOMS Commissioner Jorge Jereos yesterday said he has created several task groups to run after smugglers.

Jereos, whom President Macapagal-Arroyo designated as the country's anti-smuggling czar, said the task groups are keeping a tight watch on various industries known to be havens of smugglers.

Jereos, however, refused to give details on the task groups so as not to "telegraph our punches."

Jereos was also asked by the President to come up with an order of battle against smugglers.

Jereos said the Bureau of Customs has made arrangements with the United Coconut Planters Bank to give the BoC a credit line to buy commodities at the value declared by their importers.

"For example, if they declared the value of a shipment at P100,000 but its actual value is P1 million, we will buy it at P100,000 and then sell it back to the private sector at P1 million," Jereos said.

That way, he said, the government would not only deal with smugglers but will also raise additional revenue. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

S. Garcia; 65

SEVERINA C. Garcia, known to many as "Ate Bebec," died of heart attack on Oct. 2, 2004 in Vallejo, California, USA. She was 65 years old. She is survived by husband Conrado; children Evelyn; Emilie and Ober; Ismael and Rosalie; Neil and Bing; Asier; Elaine and Eric, grandchildren; brother, sisters and in-laws. She will be buried today.

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2004 Lancer 1.6 GLS CVT	758,000	90,700	31,767	22,632	18,149	15,917	14,431
2004 Lancer 1.6 MX CVT	838,000	99,700	35,120	25,028	20,065	17,597	15,961
2004 Adventure GL 2.5 Diesel MT	675,000	101,250	28,289	20,154	16,162	14,174	12,856
2004 Adventure GLX 2.0 Gas MT	700,000	85,000	29,336	20,906	16,780	14,699	13,332
2004 Adventure GLX 2.5 Diesel MT	740,000	111,000	31,013	22,094	17,718	15,539	14,094
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas MT	795,000	79,250	33,318	23,737	19,035	16,894	15,142
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.5 Diesel MT	885,000	80,750	33,737	24,035	19,275	16,904	15,332
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas A/T	848,000	107,200	35,539	25,319	20,384	17,807	16,151
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.5 Diesel MT	935,000	105,250	39,185	27,917	22,387	19,634	17,808
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.0 Gas A/T	980,000	127,000	41,071	29,260	23,465	20,579	18,665
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## 2 RP sailors killed in botched safety exercise

SYDNEY, Australia—Two Filipino seamen were killed in a safety exercise aboard a ship off the coast of northwestern Australia, media reported Friday.

The accident happened Thursday night as five men were being lowered into the ocean as part of the exercise 4 km off Port Hedland from the iron ore carrier Lowlands Grace when their life raft suddenly dropped 30 meters, Australian Broadcasting Corp. Radio reported.

Two men died and three were injured, one with a broken leg and one with spinal injuries, the ABC reported. Their identities were not immediately released.

Local police sergeant Peter Hayes described the incident as a tragic accident, "considering it was from an exercise which you would assume was to stop this type of incident occurring in real life."

The navy ship HMAS Melbourne was the first on the scene, and rescued the three survivors.

The ship's Cmdr. Verne Duteske paid tribute to the actions of his crew.

"The swimmers and the medics did a super job of getting straight in and freeing the guy who was trapped underwater and treating the other casualties and conducting CPR and looking after the carriers until the doctor arrived and assisted," he said.

Investigators planned to interview the crew of the 270-meter long Hong Kong flagged bulk carrier later Friday. **AP**

## SC reaffirms death for convict who questioned quorum

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME COURT has reaffirmed the death sentence on a rape convict who questioned the tribunal's earlier ruling due to a lack of quorum.

In a 22-page ruling dated Sept. 29, the high court affirmed the death sentence on Gerry H. Ebio for raping his 11-year-old daughter in Sorsogon in June 2000.

"(Ebio) is clutching at straws. He was convicted on the basis of the evidence presented by the prosecution and not on his guilty plea," the tribunal said.

However, the court did not rule on the constitutional question on the number of justices required to constitute a quorum when the high court holds an *en banc* session.

On Sept. 7, the tribunal recalled its October 2002 decision affirming Ebio's death sentence after he pointed out that only seven of the 14 high court justices signed the ruling. Seven other justices were on leave at that time.

This time 12 justices, including Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., signed the decision.

Associate Justices Adolfo Azcuna and Minerva Chico-Nazario were on leave.

The tribunal set the case for re-deliberation after it noted that the Constitution was silent on whether having only seven justices present in an *en banc* session constitutes a quorum.

But after re-deliberation, the court said the Sorsogon Regional Trial Court was correct in finding Ebio guilty beyond reasonable doubt and sentencing him to death.

"It is highly improbable for a daughter to go out in public to falsely accuse her father of rape if it were not true," the court said.

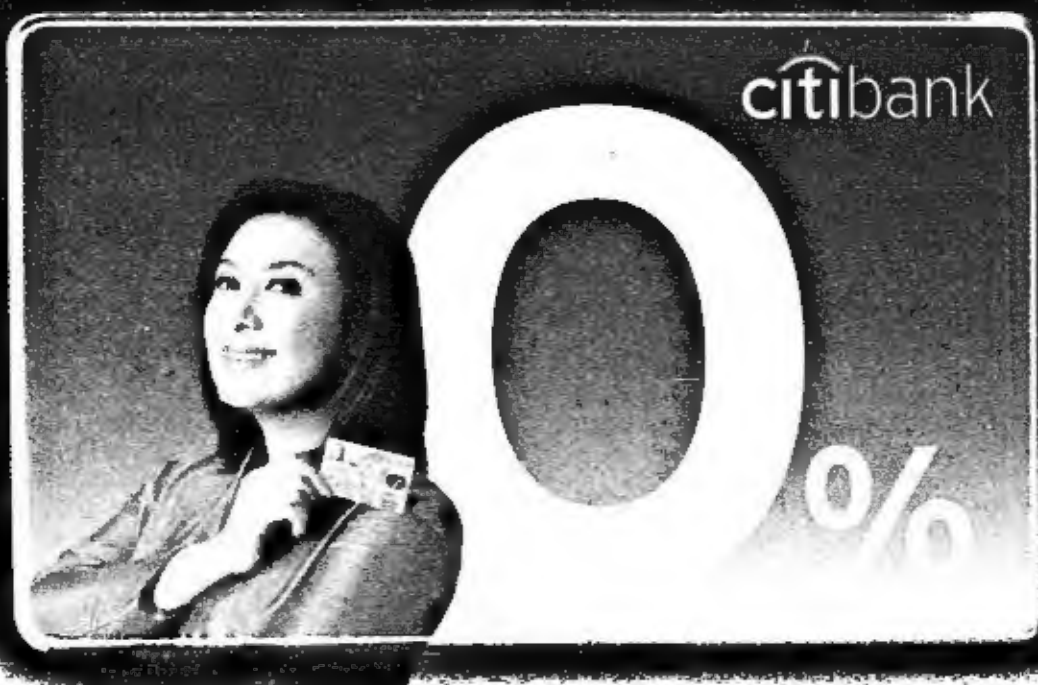
"It is against human nature for a girl to fabricate a story that would expose herself as well as her family to a lifetime of dishonor, especially when her charge could mean the death of her own father," it added.

The court also awarded the victim P125,000 in moral and civil damages and additional P25,000 for exemplary damages.

"Exemplary damages should be awarded to deter fathers with perverse tendencies and aberrant sexual behavior from sexually abusing their daughters," the court said.

The high court had agreed to take a second look at Ebio's case after he raised the issue of whether the votes of only seven justices can validly impose the death penalty and whether there is a need for a quorum when the court sits in *en banc*.

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# Only one lawmaker supports abolition of Congress

## Corrections

IN THE Sports section (Page A26) of the Oct. 4 issue, the obituary of the late basketball player Engracio "Boy" Arayas omitted the names of his wife and other children. He is survived by his wife Azucena Arayas and children Nerissa, Eileen, Cristina, Annalisa, Geronimo and Hazel Joy; and companion Tessie and children Jayjay and Pingoy.

IN THE Oct. 5 issue, the caption of an Across the Nation photo on Page A19 erroneously identified the affiliation of the protesters who demonstrated outside the Government Service Insurance System office in Iloilo City on Monday. The rally was staged by members of the Confederation for the Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), not by employees of the GSIS. The photo should also have been credited to Chris Fernandez—not Nestor P. Burgos. Due to a technical glitch, the corrections were not included in the photo that came out in yesterday's correction box.

THE OFFICER shown in yesterday's front page photo is not Army Chief Lt. Gen. Efren Abu. He is actually Brig. Gen. Jovito Palparan, former chief of the Philippine contingent to Iraq and now Army chief of staff. Abu appeared before a Senate hearing the other day and sent Palparan to represent him.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: gerry@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Comments about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

From page A1

who is the President's election lawyer and is representing her in the electoral protest filed by losing rival Fernando Poe Jr.

"Before members of Congress become unduly agitated by this proposal, it should be stressed that Macalintal aired it not as the election lawyer of the President but in his own personal capacity," said Gabriel Claudio, the President's political adviser who heads the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office.

Claudio said the President preferred to work with Congress, not do away with it as Macalintal had suggested.

"Rather than throw away its goodwill and rapport with Congress, the Executive intends to work hard with its members to lick the fiscal crisis, especially in the field of legislation where those fiscal reform measures proposed by the executive branch are absolutely essential," he said.

Claudio said he believes Macalintal's proposal was made without malice but as a constructive suggestion to avoid a full-blown financial crisis.

## Hike martial law

Macalintal has proposed that Congress be abolished for a three-year period as a way of raising funds to cover the budget deficit and also to give the country a respite from partisan bickering. He said the government could save P67.7 billion, representing the combined three-year budget of the Senate and the House.

Rep. Francis Nepomuceno (NPC, Pangasinana) said this was ridiculous as Congress' budget represented only 3 percent of the annual national appropriations.

Nepomuceno bristled at the suggestion that Congress be abolished, saying it was tantamount to declaring martial law.

He recalled that the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos padlocked Congress after declaring martial law in 1972 and ran the country by decree.

"Marcos tried it but it didn't work," he said.

Deputy Speaker Rep. Gerry Salapuddin (Lakas, Basilan) described the Macalintal proposal as a "hostile act at the country's democratic institution."

## 'Outrageous'

"It's an outrageous and insensible proposal," Salapuddin said, adding that the proposal should be ignored.

He said Filipinos should consider democracy dead if the Macalintal proposal is adopted.

He also blamed Malacañang for the "fiscal mess" and accused the Palace of making a "whipping boy" of Congress "because it is an easy institution to utilize for public attention."

House Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) directed his ire at Beltran whose statements supporting Macalintal's proposal were, he said, "unfair and improper."

"Be careful. Your peers and colleagues will not take this kindly," Nograles advised Beltran.

As for Macalintal, Nograles said he

should "just stick to election lawyering."

## 'Hypocrisy'

Nograles also virtually accused Beltran of hypocrisy.

"If Congress is that bad, how come their group branched into new party-list organizations just to gain more seats in the House," Nograles said.

Beltran was a representative of the Left-leaning Bayan Muna party-list group during the 12th Congress. Before his term expired, he and another Bayan Muna member Liza Maza gave way to the group's second-liners.

Beltran and Maza subsequently put up the Bayan Muna-affiliated Anakpawis and Gabriela party-list groups which ran for places in the May 10 party-list elections. The Bayan Muna bloc now has six representatives in Congress.

## Colleague disagrees

Even Beltran's Anakpawis colleague, Rafael Mariano, does not agree with him on the issue.

Mariano said the real need is to "replace the present reactionary Congress with a genuine and pro-people Congress."

Another party-list Rep. Renato Magtubo (Partido ng Manggagawa) dismissed Macalintal's proposal as "bad comedy."

"With Congress gone, there won't be anybody to check and balance an inept and corrupt executive branch," said Magtubo, adding that it is Malacañang that should be abolished.

"That would be disastrous," he said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the Macal-

intal proposal was "asking for a revolution" as Macalintal's suggestion that the President appoint members of the constitutional commission would be "un-constitutional." The Executive does not have such powers, he said.

"The only way [the Macalintal proposal] can be achieved is through a revolution similar to the People Power revolution of Edsa I where the Constitution was abrogated and a dictator allowed to rule without a Congress," Biazon said in a statement.

## Who will be dictator?

The first post-Edsa President, Corason Aquino, exercised dictatorial powers in a provisional government from February 1986 to July 1987 when a new Constitution was drawn up.

"The only problem with this solution is who will be the dictator? Who will lead the revolution? Will the Armed Forces of the Philippines support such a revolution?" asked Biazon.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said he disagreed with Macalintal's proposal because the country did not need "another dictatorship."

"You abolish Congress, what democracy would you have [with] a President issuing decrees?" Enrile told reporters.

He also questioned Macalintal's right to make such a proposal.

"He better run for public office first before he proposed an abolition of Congress. It's like saying let's abolish the legal profession," he said. With a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

# Austrian writer of sex violence, politics wins Nobel for literature

STOCKHOLM—Austria's Elfriede Jelinek won the Nobel Prize for Literature on Thursday for novels and plays that starkly depict violence against women, explore sexuality and condemn far-right politics in Europe.

The 57-year-old author, best-known for her semi-autobiographical novel "The Piano Teacher"—made into a movie in 2001—was a surprise winner.

She is the first Austrian and ninth woman to win literature's highest accolade.

Jelinek said at her Viennese home she felt "more desperation than happiness" at the news, saying it would turn her into what she "never wanted to be—a person in the public eye."

The reclusive writer, said by one editor to "show no mercy either to her themes or to herself," said she would

not collect the 10 million crown (\$1.36 million) prize in person.

"I am not mentally able to withstand that. I have a social phobia and cannot stand these large crowds of people," she said.

Her unemotional descriptions of the power play in sex and human relations, and outspoken political views, have alienated many in her native Austria but have

also won her respect as a fearless feminist writer who makes bold use of language.

"She has absolute moral and political integrity," Delf Schmidt of her publishers Berlin Verlag said.

Born in 1946 to a father of Czech-Jewish origins and a Viennese mother, she studied music at the Vienna Conservatory before making her literary debut with a collection of poems in 1967.

# Nobel Peace Prize goes to Kenyan woman

From page A1

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forestation. The Green Belt Movement has planted more than 30 million trees across Africa.

"We believe that Maathai is a strong voice speaking for the best forces in Africa to promote peace and good living conditions on that continent," the Nobel committee said in its citation.

With a record 194 nominations, the committee had a broad field to choose from and speculation had focused on other candidates.

Maathai, said she, too, was surprised.

## First for environment

"I am absolutely overwhelmed and very emotionally charged, really," she told Norwegian state television. "I did not expect this."

It was the first time the prize honored

work to preserve the environment.

During the 2001 centennial anniversary of the prize, the committee had said it wanted to widen the scope of the award, including honoring those who worked to improve the environment, as well as contributed to advancing peace worldwide.

"This is the first time environment sets the agenda for the Nobel Peace Prize, and we have added a new dimension to peace. We want to work for a better life environment in Africa," said committee chair Ole Danbolt Mjoes.

Many observers had speculated that the committee might try to send a message about the US-led war in Iraq, as it did in 2002, when members said the choice of former US President Jimmy Carter should be seen as criticism of the Bush administration's move to topple Saddam Hussein.

The choice of the 64-year-old Maathai was a clear answer that the committee eschewed politics this time around.

## Criticism

Morten Hoeglund, a member of Norway's Progress Party, criticized the choice, saying there were more pressing issues such as weapons of mass destruction that the Nobel Committee should have focused on.

"Today we have problems with nuclear arms and technology gone astray. The Nobel Committee should spend more resources on these matters instead," he said.

Indeed, oddsmakers and speculation had pointed to Mohamed ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency as likely winners.

Last year's award went to Iranian Shirin Ebadi.

Maathai is the seventh African to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Previous winners from the continent include UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who shared the prize with the United Nations in 2001, and Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk from South Africa in 1993.

Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, or GBM, in 1977 while head of the National Council of Women of Kenya. The group quickly became the largest community-based environmental organization in Africa, with a focus on planting trees and empowering women.

Maathai has also been praised for standing up to Kenya's former government, led by President Daniel arap Moi for 24 years until he stepped down after elections in 2002.

"The environment is very important in the aspects of peace because when we destroy our resources and our resources become scarce, we fight over that," she said, fighting back tears. "I am working to make sure we don't only protect the environment, we also improve governance."

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# Abra mayor arrested; firearms seized in raid

By C. Esguerra and  
Artha Kira Paredes  
PDI Northern Luzon  
Bureau

POLICE arrested an Abra town mayor and two alleged members of his private armed group during a raid on his house and seized at least five unlicensed firearms.

Members of Task Force Abra arrested Mayor Edwin Crisologo of Ting town on the strength of a search warrant, said Senior Supt. Leopoldo Batao, Philippine National Police spokesperson.

Seized during the raid Thursday on Crisologo's house in Barangay Ubbog, Bangued, were five .38 cal. pistols, two bullet-proof vests, assorted bullets and empty shells.

Also arrested during the raid were Alfredo Zapata and Benjie Califlores, said to be among the mayor's bodyguards. Zapata is wanted by police for arson and Califlores, for frustrated murder.

Crisologo was taken to the Abra police headquarters in Camp Juan Villamor for questioning.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Crisologo but

the mayor did not answer his mobile phone.

Police are now preparing criminal charges against Crisologo for alleged illegal possession of firearms and for harboring fugitives.

Crisologo's arrest came on the eve of PNP chief Edgar Aglipay's deadline for all Abra politicians to surrender their loose firearms. The deadline expired yesterday.

Aglipay earlier ordered Cordillera po-

lice to recover loose firearms and dismantle private armed groups (PAGs) maintained by politicians.

Aglipay's orders were prompted by a three-part INQUIRER series in September about the existence of PAGs and the apparent lawlessness in Abra.

Beginning today, Aglipay said the PNP would launch a series of raids in the province against politicians and other residents believed to be maintain-

ing armed groups and keeping caches of loose firearms.

Search warrants will be sought from courts based in Metro Manila, the PNP chief said.

Aglipay stepped up the campaign against private armies by canceling all permits to carry firearms outside of residence in the entire Abra province.

# Luzon rocked by quake of 6.6 magnitude

By Ruben Alabastro

A STRONG earthquake jolted Metro Manila and a wide area of Luzon at 10:36 last night, rocking buildings and knocking out power in some areas but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Scores of people rushed out of their houses in residential areas and in some buildings in Metro Manila and streamed into the streets in a

mild panic but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The quake registered a magnitude of 6.6 on the Richter Scale and was centered 67 km southwest of Tagaytay City in Cavite, seismologists said. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said it was of tectonic origin and originated from a depth of 94 km. It was caused by the movement of the so-called Manila trench.

It knocked out power in Orani, Bataan and Olongapo City, and caused buildings to sway.

Volcanologists said the quake was felt

strongest in the Puer to Galera in Mindoro, in Tagaytay City, in Los Baños, Laguna, in San Fernando, Pampanga, and Mal-

olos, Bulacan, where it registered an intensity of 5.

It was felt at intensity 4 in Manila, Taguig, Pasay, and

Pasig and in Lucban, Quezon and Talisay, Batangas. It registered an intensity 3 in Quezon City and at Clark Air Base.



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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Guaco

## Sinai resort bombings kill 26

**TABA, Egypt**—At least 26 people were killed and scores injured when car bombs exploded at resorts packed with Israeli holiday-makers on the Red Sea coast of Egypt's Sinai desert in attacks Israel blamed Friday on al-Qaida.

The most powerful of the explosions late Thursday left a trail of carnage and destruction at the 10-story Hilton Hotel in Taba, a town just across the Israeli border that hosted Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in 2001.

"According to our first information, it appears to be an international terror attack with the hallmarks of al-Qaida," said Is-

rael's deputy defense minister, Zeev Boim.

The explosions occurred as Israelis were celebrating the end of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, and followed official warnings that Israelis should keep out of the Sinai because of possible attacks.

Estimates of the number of dead varied through the night as rescuers combed the rubble of the hotel searching for survivors and bodies after the attacks, one of the deadliest on Egyptian soil.

According to the latest toll given by the Israeli media, the bodies of 24 people were found at the hotel while another two people were killed in attacks in restaurants in the backpacker resort of

Ras Sultan, near Nuweiba further south.

Israel's ambassador to Egypt, Eli Shaked, said he had been informed that most of the victims were Egyptians, while Moscow said one Russian was killed and eight injured. London said two Britons were among the wounded.

Throughout the night, Israelis streamed across the border checkpoint between Taba and the Israeli resort of Eilat as ambulances shuttled back and forth bearing bloodied victims, including children.

"There was a terrible explosion. In a matter of seconds everything had collapsed, it was awful," said Liron, a 24-year-old Israeli woman.

Israeli police said the explosion was caused by a powerful car bomb detonated near the entrance to the four-star Hilton, destroying a wing of the Israeli-built establishment used mostly by Israelis.

Footage showed collapse staircases and tangled piles of metal and concrete. "There were whole families who threw themselves out of the windows rather than perish in the flames," another woman told Israeli public television.

The explosions came amid a massive Israeli army offensive in the north of the Gaza Strip, a wedge of land near the border with Egypt, that has left more than 90 Palestinians dead in less than 10 days. **AFP**



ISRAELI girls cry following the attack on the Hilton Taba Hotel in the Egyptian Red sea resort on Oct. 8. **AFP**

## US hits Fallujah; rockets strike Baghdad hotel

**BAGHDAD**—US warplanes bomb the rebel-held city of Fallujah early Friday, killing at least 10 people, medics said, just hours after rockets slammed into a Baghdad hotel used by foreign journalists and contractors.

As US and Iraqi troops battled to Iraq's bloody insurgency, militiamen loyal to a radical Shiite Muslim cleric offered to surrender major weapons in return for the release of prisoners and a role in Iraq's political process.

The US air strike targeted a northern district of Fallujah at 1:30 a.m., an **AFP** correspondent said.

"We have received 10 dead and 16 wounded," said Dr. Khaled Mohammad Nasser of Fallujah's general hospital.

American warplanes pound the Sunni Arab bastion almost daily, targeting what US officials say are supporters of Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi, the most wanted man for the interim government.

Zarqawi's Unity and Holy War group is blamed for a string of deadly attacks and beheadings of hostages.

Earlier, military officials said US and Iraqi troops had captured nearly 60 suspected insurgents in the first three days of a joint assault on pockets of insurgency south of Baghdad.

Some 2,000 US and Iraqi forces combed the dangerous belt of farming towns—Mahmudiyyah, Latifiyah and Iskandariyah—known as the triangle of death, where insurgents have killed and kidnapped foreigners and locals for months.

Four marines, three Iraqi national guardsmen and three civilians have been wounded in the fighting so far.

Meanwhile, two rockets hit Baghdad's Sheraton Hotel, followed by gunfire, but there were no reports of any serious casualties, officials and witnesses said.

"It looks like they may have been fired from close range," US military spokesperson Maj. Philip Smith said of the rockets.

A guest at the heavily fortified hotel said: "I was working at my computer when I heard loud explosions followed by some gunfire."

Fire was seen blazing from the Sheraton after the attack at about 7 p.m. on Thursday, although the guest said the situation calmed later. **AFP**

## Howard expected to win 4th term by slim margin

**SYDNEY**—Australians go to the polls Saturday with conservative Prime Minister John Howard narrowly favored to win a fourth term in office despite public unease over his decision to join the US-led war in Iraq.

Domestic issues overshadowed the Iraq crisis and the threat of international terrorism during the six-week election campaign, which saw Howard focus his attack on the relative inexperience of his main rival, Labor Party leader Mark Latham.

End of campaign opinion polls Friday showed Howard's Liberal-National coalition ahead of the center-left Labor by a margin of three to four points, indicating it was on track to maintain or even expand the eight-seat majority it held in the outgoing 150-member House of Representatives.

The polling trend over the past two weeks has seen a steady erosion of Labor's early lead, despite the widespread view that the 43-year-old Latham has run a strong campaign just 10 months after taking over the opposition party.


But analysts said as many as 10 percent of the 13 million eligible voters remained undecided on the eve of the poll and an upset Labor victory could not be ruled out.

Australia's major newspapers threw their weight behind Howard in Friday editorials and bookmakers have tipped Howard as the red-hot favorite.

If the conservatives win on Saturday, Howard at 65 will become Australia's second-longest serving prime minister. A Labor win would make Latham one of the country's youngest leaders. **AFP**



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Quezon City, Makati City	Saturday, Sep 18, 2004	Ali Mall Center	November 6, 2004 Part 1 November 13, 2004 Part 2
Pasig, Marikina, San Juan Mandaluyong	Saturday, Oct 2, 2004	Robinsons Galleria	November 20, 2004 Part 1 November 27, 2004 Part 2
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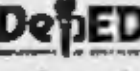
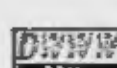
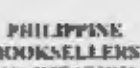
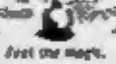
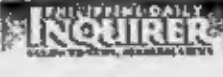
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# Bush's job on the line in 2nd debate with Kerry

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—George W. Bush faces 90 of the most critical minutes of his presidency Friday (today at 9 a.m. in Manila), with his rationale for war in Iraq in tatters and his bid for a second term threatened by challenger John Kerry.

Bush, who shepherded the United States through the agony of Sept. 11 and led the country into two wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, finds his authority challenged as never before going into the second of three televised presidential debates.

After scowling through a lackluster showing in the first head-to-head with Kerry in Florida last

week, Bush is under pressure to check the Democrat's opinion poll surge ahead of a third head-to-head with Kerry next week.

But aides to Massachusetts senator Kerry expect a reinvigorated Bush to emerge in the second debate.

"The wild card here is which President will show up, will it be the disinterested, annoyed and unprepared one... or will it be the one we expect," said Kerry campaign strategist Joe Lockhart.

But Republicans are itching to put Kerry on the spot for what they say is a long catalogue of inconsistency on how best to defend the United States.

The debate is "an opportunity for Senator Kerry to defend a 30-year record of being wrong on defense," said Bush campaign manager Ken Mehlman.

Friday's showdown is promising to be one of the most bruising encounters in recent memory, with Bush branding Kerry's foreign policy a danger to America, and his challenger accusing him of weaving a "pattern of deception" over Iraq.

The argument has sharpened in the week and one day since the first debate, with Kerry sniffing blood and the Republicans realizing that an expected coast to reelection may not materialize.

Both candidates will take questions from audience members, in a "town hall" style debate supposed to mix foreign policy with economic questions.

That format supposedly will play into Bush's common touch, although Vietnam war veteran Kerry, seen as aloof at the beginning of his campaign, has honed his technique in a blizzard of town hall meetings in recent weeks.

The war in Iraq, which emerged slowly as a campaign issue but has become a prism through which each candidate's character is viewed, will likely dominate the debate.

Bush is dealing with a week of bad news on Iraq.

Former top US official in Baghdad Paul Bremer was this week caught complaining he never had enough troops to stabilize the country after the war.

And a report of the Iraq Survey Group set up to probe Saddam Hussein's alleged weapons of mass destruction programs, said the Iraqi dictator had no such arms at the time of the US invasion in 2003, undercutting Bush's rationale for war.

But Bush has been underestimated before, and a bravura performance could shift the race, which has been see-sawing between himself and Kerry for months in his favor. **AFP**



CAMBODIA'S King Norodom Sihanouk in a July 17, 2001 photo. Sihanouk abdicated Oct. 7 and asked the people of Cambodia, which does not have a hereditary monarchy, to begin a search for a successor. **AP**

## Cambodia in turmoil after Sihanouk steps down; solons hold urgent meet

PHNOM PENH—Cambodian legislators will vote on a law to choose a new king on Friday after the abdication of their long-term ruler threw the country into turmoil, the head of the national assembly said.

King Norodom Sihanouk stepped down Thursday leaving his family and the country's political leadership scrambling to persuade him to change his mind and retake the position that he has held on and off for more than 60 years.

The hastily called assembly session followed pressure from Sihanouk who said in a message from self-imposed exile in Beijing on Friday that he would not return home until his successor was appointed.

Assembly president Prince Norodom Ranariddh, 60, his son, said he would fly to Beijing on Saturday to try to cajole Sihanouk into reversing his decision, which prompted a constitutional crisis.

He said the two top contenders for the throne—himself and his half-brother Prince Norodom Sihamoni, 51—did

not want the job under the current circumstances.

Sihanouk, 81, continued on Friday to make demands before his promised return to the country after leaving in January and staying abroad because of a crisis in forming a new government after inconclusive July 2003 elections.

"I will go back to Cambodia to live in Siem Reap, Angkor, when the throne council has elected a new king," the highly revered Sihanouk said in a French-language communiqué.

He added that Ranariddh, Sihamoni, whom he is widely believed to prefer, or any other eligible prince could take over from him after his latest 11-year tenure on the throne.

Sihanouk first ascended the throne aged 18 but has abdicated, been exiled and was deposed in the years after leading his country to independence from French colonial rule in 1953.

Under the 1993 constitution, his successor must be more than 30 years

old and come from one of three royal lineages.

The constitution says a nine-member throne council could appoint an heir but does not tell them how it should be done, leaving it for parliament to draw up a law on the finer details.

Prime Minister Hun Sen and Ranariddh promised the king during visits to Beijing more than a month ago they would draft a law allowing a successor to be elected by a simple majority of the council.

But the failure to pass the law frustrated him and prompted his latest demands.

"I hope that they will ratify this proposed law by this evening," Ranariddh told reporters a day after his highly emotional announcement that his father would be stepping down.

The Senate would still need to approve the law and it remains unclear whether the acting head of state can legally sign off the law if there is no head of state. **AFP**

## Indonesian Embassy in Paris bombed

PARIS—Ten people were lightly injured when a bomb exploded outside the Indonesian embassy in Paris on Friday, breaking windows and damaging vehicles but causing no serious destruction.

Nine of the injured—who included four embassy staff members—were treated for cuts in local hospitals and the 10th was tended at the scene in the exclusive 16th district in the west of the capital.

The explosive device was left on the pavement beneath the Indonesian flag flying from the embassy building on a narrow street corner and went off shortly after 5 a.m.

It left a small crater some 50 cm wide by 20 cm deep, which antiterrorist experts were examining three hours later amid the morning rush hour. Streets around the embassy were sealed off as workmen cleared up the debris of broken glass.

"It was an explosive device placed in front of the embassy—probably a bomb of medium size which shattered windows up to 30 meters away and damaged several vehicles parked around it," Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin told reporters at the scene.

"To our knowledge there has been no specific threat (against Indonesian interests) but the enquiry will establish that fully," he said. The minister was to chair a morning meeting of the Interior Intelligence Council, which comprises intelligence chiefs, to assess the significance of the blast.

Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin condemned the bomb blast and vowed that the investigation would be "swift and thorough." President Jacques Chirac, who is in Vietnam, sent a "message of support" to Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Dorojatun Kunjoro-Jakti, assuring him that "all measures would be taken to investigate this criminal act," a spokesperson said.

Indonesia's president-elect Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono also condemned the attack, saying: "I'm saddened by and condemn the act of violence against our embassy in France. We call on the French government to uphold law and provide further protection for our citizens in France."

Indonesia, which has the largest population of Muslims in the world, has in past months been the target of extremist attacks. In August 2003 a suicide bomber killed 12 people in an attack on the US-franchised J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta. The attack was blamed on the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah group.

The group is also believed to have been behind the September truck bombing outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta which killed nine people, and is suspected of involvement in the 2002 Bali bombings which killed 202. **AFP**

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My All	101510



RICK MARTIN

TITLE	RING ID
Livin' La Vida Loca	101513
Private Emotion	101515
She Bangs	101516



OTHER ORIGINAL CALLER RINGTUNES

ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID	ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID	ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID	ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
Cher	Believe	101501	Cher	Believe	101501	Cher	Believe	101501	Cher	Believe	101501
Cher	Believe	101501	Cher	Believe	101501	Cher	Believe	101501	Cher	Believe	101501
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Independent Women	101489
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**BE'ONCE KNOWLES**

TITLE	RING ID
Bey' Boy	101466
Crazy In Love	101467
Be Myself And I	101468

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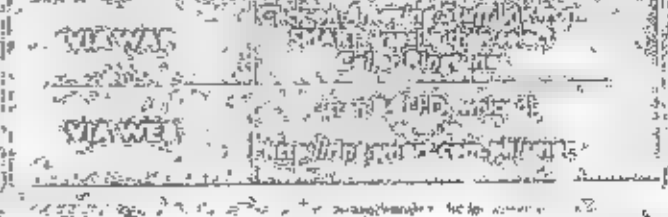
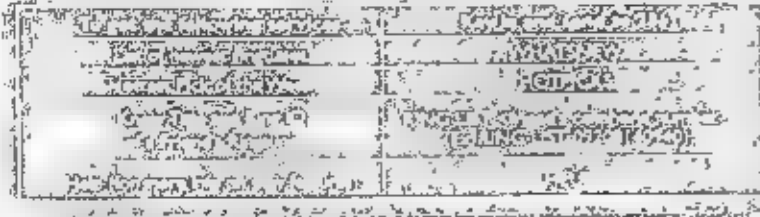
**WILL SMITH**

TITLE	RING ID
Gettin' Jiggy With It	101524
Men In Black	101525
Wild Wild West	101526



**AUDIOSLAVE**

TITLE	RING ID
Cochise	101451
Like A Stone	101463
Show Me How To Live	101454





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## OPINION

What is your feedback? Inquirer op-eds can be sent to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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## Nothing new

ANYONE with eyes to see would see that hunger has long afflicted this country. No one should be so blind as to not know that, for example, whole families daily depend on the refuse of others to survive. Parents and their wild-eyed children digging into filth and offal to find precious bits of sustenance, whether in broad daylight or in the dead of night, provide the macabre images; the Social Weather Stations survey merely provided the numbers.

If Malacañang is at all mindful of what's going on, it would know that the disturbing incidence of hunger is not a new creature suddenly let loose by its enemies to bite the incumbent in the ass. The magnitude of the simmering crisis was indicated at about this time last year, not by a polling firm but by a government agency—the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology, which said that 8 out of 10 Filipino households were hungry.

This would be difficult to imagine for the perfumed set, granting that it could be so bothered as to attempt to do so. But apparently not even Malacañang was bothered when the finding was made public, or, granting that cast-iron indifference has yet to totally set in, it would have cast about for a de cajon remedy like the food coupon program that it is preparing now. Or, given that its denizens are members of the perfumed set, at least behaved appropriately, with a minimum of ostentation, in keeping with the shocking numbers of its constituents in extremis. (But no. Many months later the Lady of the Palace flew to China on a state visit. Nothing essentially wrong with that, except that she did it en famille, with servants in tow. She wanted "quality time," she said later.)

## Novel proposal

AS ANNOUNCED by its officials, Malacañang is studying the idea of distributing food coupons to the "poorest families" nationwide, which will supposedly be identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and local government units. The coupons will amount to P1,200 worth of food for each impoverished family a month; the monthly tab is expected to reach about P6 billion. But according to Social Welfare Undersecretary Celia Yungco, the program is not intended to encourage the dole-out mentality. "Excuse me," she reportedly huffed, "we don't have that much resources." Well, for a government lacking in resources, that's a pretty stiff price.

Compare this planned stopgap measure with the proposal aired by Sen. Ralph Recto—a "school-attendance-for-rice" program under which 100,000 grade school children from "ultra-poor and food-insecure" families (to be identified by the public school principals) will each receive a kilo of rice for every day that they attend classes. The envisioned swap is aimed at addressing two problems (both alarming and both linked to the scourge of hunger) at the same time—the dropout rate among the children of impoverished families and the malnutrition that afflicts them.

Recto's proposal is eminently better than the planned temporary distribution of food coupons, but there is no indication from Malacañang that it is interested in taking it up, or even considering it. A shame, given that the estimated tab would amount to only P360 million annually (as opposed to P6 billion monthly), and yet would be of lasting effect and benefit to the children and their families, and to the nation as a whole.

Think literacy. The children who skip school because they are forced to toil in the fields and sweatshops or to work the streets begging or selling sampaguita leis will receive the benefits of education daily and, hopefully, help in halting the runaway illiteracy train. And think food. The very ones on whose tender shoulders already rest the burden of putting food on the table for their families will bring home the grains of life each day of the 200-day school year that they show up to learn.

Malacañang could do worse than reconsider its food coupon program, which threatens to be not only a logistics nightmare but also a disorderly and inefficient procedure that would strengthen the patronage system. It also behooves authorities to realize that if the program is not accompanied by structural reforms and earnest efforts to address the inequitable distribution of resources, the problem would result in nothing—and even hasten the inevitable.



## The meaning of 'mere'

SEPARATE  
OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



have described him as a mere high school graduate (as he was not even that in fact) nor could anyone else with a string of academic degrees look down on him for his meager formal studies.

And since we are speaking of the mere non-graduates, let us not forget the erudite Blas F. Ople, who entered law school but never finished the course because of other callings. He spoke better English than college professors and knew more of Philippine history and politics, international affairs, and philosophy and letters than many of his colleagues and contemporaries. In the Senate where he sat with be-degreed alumni from post-graduate courses abroad, not a single one of them could claim to be more intellectual than Ople.

In my recent article on the American presidents (PDI, 9/11/04) I mentioned nine of them, including Washington and Lincoln—and Truman too in the last century—who received little or no formal schooling. Yet some of them acquitted themselves favorably in office and could not be considered "mere" students because they had no college degrees. By contrast, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has described the chamber to which she belongs a "Senate of idiots" although all its members have what she calls "reasonable resumes" and can recite scripted speeches ghost-written for them by others.

I had a classmate in the Legarda Elementary School many decades ago who was brighter than many of us. He enrolled with us at the Mapa High School when we finished grade school but had to stop during his first year because he had to help his mother earn a living for the family when his father died. He was working in a printing shop the last time I saw him, and I am hoping that he eventually got to own the business, given his native abilities. I would never have described him as a mere high school student inferior to other persons who got to study in college and even managed to graduate at last after a lot of flunking grades.

So my dear anonymous friend who would chide me for calling Bong Revilla a mere high school graduate, please understand that I did not mean to underrate him as such. I do not consider high school students inferior because they are lower than college students. They are lower in rank, but not necessarily in intelligence. The fact is that I used the word "mere" only in a comparative sense to distinguish high school students from students on the collegiate level. That is all. It is like saying that one is a mere freshman compared to the other students who are sophomores and juniors and seniors.

Let me take this occasion to comment on the modesty of my colleagues on the Supreme Court when we were there who had taken post-graduate studies in foreign schools and had earned impressive-sounding academic degrees. I never had their opportunities but not a single one of them flaunted his distinctions before me like a pretentious and patronizing pedant. I truly appreciate that none of these humble peers considered me a "mere" justice because I was land-locked, so to speak, and had not studied abroad like them.

## A successful sting going bust

## GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



happily ever after? Not quite.

As a prelude to this what-happened-afterwards tale, let me say that I think the world of Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman (whom I called to get her take on the story) and many of her colleagues. They are hard-working, even as they deal with the horrors of deprivation day in and day out, and remain committed. Let us also keep in mind that the raid took place on July 3, 2004, which was about the time Dinky's walking papers were making the headlines, and just before the Iraqi hostage situation (Angele de la Cruz) blew up.

What happened after the raid, and after the cameras were turned off? Within 48 hours, 35 of the 70 minors were "discharged," released to "family members." Now that may sound like the right thing to do (the DSWD policy is to reunite them with their families), but keep in mind that there were family members who permitted/forced these minors into the business in the first place. So all that planning for the sting operation, which took about six months, may be for naught, if the idea was to save the children from further exploitation.

It could be, of course, that the children were discharged only after the case workers were convinced of the reliability of those family members. But, given that some of the children were discharged in less than four hours, that there were only four case workers on the job, and that a proper assessment would require interviews with family members and background checks in their communities, it seems farfetched that this could have been done for 35 children in 48 hours, much less in four

The rest of the children, 34 in all, and one bugaw mother were sent to the Haven, a DSWD-run center (founded by Gina de Venecia and her Congressional Spouses Foundation) in Marikina (founded by Imelda Marcos for sexually abused girls). By July 13, there were only 10 children and the bugaw mother remaining; the others had been discharged during that seven-day period. And by Sept. 29, there were only six children left, either because they have no families or are under the Witness Protection Program. Two of them, sisters with ages 7 and 9, were pimped by their grandma's sister, specializing in oral sex with foreigners in five-star hotels. Their grandma was the one who asked that they not be sent home.

Secretary Soliman assures me that the discharged children are being monitored weekly by social workers. But concerned individuals, worried about the children's fate, point to conflicting answers from DSWD personnel as to where those monitoring reports go: some say to the releasing center, others to the regional office, still others to the mayor's office.

Jessica Horne Mapua, who together with her tita, Olivia Romulo, visits the children every Wednesday (other relatives are giving English and art lessons), has an eight-point list of recommendations on the issue, which includes revisiting the policy of reuniting children with families, more counseling for the children, more accountability after their discharge, use of NGOs to help in the transition process, viewing these children as victims rather than as offenders, and closing down establishments where child trafficking is going on.

Meanwhile, what has happened to knight-in-shining-armor Christian Kerremans? He apparently is so disturbed at the turn of events that he has bombarded everybody within halting distance with letters and pleas and demands on behalf of the children. As a result, he has become very unpopular with many people. No good deed goes unpunished.



**Dire warnings****POLITICAL  
TIDBITS****Belinda  
Olivares-Gunanan**

also opined that the budget deficit would further widen by at least P73 billion if Congress does not enact new revenue measures.

But Congress does not seem to be worried. Two senators wanted to investigate separately the GSIS scandals. Thank God, Sen. Ralph Recto dampened the enthusiasm by opining that the chamber has been making too many investigations. But expect the scandals rocking the Armed Forces to trigger new inquiries.

I ran into former UP president and now Kalayaan College head Jose V. Abueva recently and asked him about the current search for the next UP president to succeed Dr. Francisco Nemenzo. Nemenzo is retiring on his 70th birthday this February. Abueva said there are five female candidates (Prof. Solita Monsod, Ester Garcia formerly of CHED, Diliman chancellor Emerlinda Roman, Dr. Georgina Encanto and lawyer Soledad Cagampang-de Castro) vying with four male candidates (Ambassador Edgardo Espiritu, Dr. Eduardo C. Sison of Los Baños campus, Dr. Ernesto de Castro and Dr. Federico Macaranas). Hence, he said, there's a big chance UP will have its first female president. About time too, he opined, for while the Republic has already had two lady presidents, the State University never had one among the 18 or so since its founding. Abueva opined that the next president would play a crucial role since he or she would be a "centennial president," as UP celebrates 100 years of existence in 2008. He said the long discrimination against women should fittingly end with the selection of a woman centennial president.

**An honest couple****AT LARGE****Rina Jimenez-David**

the next three weeks, accumulating interest in the process, Melchor and Rowena decided to call JP Morgan Chase and tell them about the mistake.

The Bolivars, it must be made clear, are not wealthy, although they are comfortable enough. Melchor works as a private cook and chauffeur for a wealthy New York businessman. When they told the bank about the amount in their account, the Bolivars realized that "they had no idea about the mistake." Melchor told Silvestre that "Chase even asked me to put the money (into) investment," advising him that "it's a waste to just leave such a huge amount in a savings account."

The US bank later sent the couple a letter authorizing the release of the money from their account, which it asked the Bolivars to sign. "Without fanfare, the couple signed the release letter and the mistake was corrected quietly," writes Silvestre.

The Bolivars say they never received even a "thank you" note from either JP Morgan Chase or Danske Bank. "It's okay with us because a clear conscience is more important to us," But Melchor said the US bank left in their account \$1,333, representing the interest the money earned. "It's probably our reward," he added.

INTERVIEWED by Silvestre, a Chase spokesperson said the bank appreciated the Bolivars' honesty, but could not explain why no one in the bank thanked the couple, citing "customer confidentiality."

"We certainly appreciate their helping in facilitating the process to straighten this out as they rightfully should," the spokesperson said.

**Too many fiestas****SENSE AND  
SENSIBILITY****Bambi L. Harper**

afternoon, there was a drama on the martyrs of Japan. On Tuesday, it was the Augustinian's turn. They had their grand procession in the morning led by the soldiers and many dancers. In the afternoon there were more dances and *mitotes* (native dances) and other amusements.

On Wednesday, it was the Jesuit's turn. There were the usual fireworks the evening before—rockets, bombs and illuminations with a lot of music, and the following morning there was the Mass and sermon and in the afternoon, a drama on the Conception.

On Thursday afternoon, the clergy of the cathedral officiated with a drama about Joseph.

On Friday, the Augustinian Recollects had their great procession not just with the regular soldiers but also with the citizens. Maestre de Campo, D. Geronimo Rivera rode on horseback. In the afternoon, there was a drama on the Prince of Transylvania.

On Saturday, there were not one but two fiestas. One in the cathedral and the other at the Jesuit residence, supposedly so that the Archbishop and the Franciscans wouldn't have a monopoly of the celebration! At night, there were even more illuminations and, in the evening, there was another procession of the students of S. Ignacio. Heading it were three chariots. In the first were oboe players; in the second, singers chanting motets and ballads; and in the third, musicians playing various musical instruments, like guitars, harps, rebecks, etc. Next

Dr. Abueva expressed hope that President Macapagal-Arroyo would respect UP's academic freedom and be truly impartial, and leave the selection entirely with the UP Board of Regents. Abueva, who became UP president during Cory Aquino's time, noted that the latter was perhaps the only president who stayed neutral on this matter. He recalled that upon his own election, Cory's close friends, Dr. Angelita Trinidad Reyes and former Justice Florida Ruth Romero, told him she did not lift a finger to influence the choice. In contrast, Abueva said Dr. Armand Fabella, President Ramon's first education secretary, openly told people that FVR was bartering for Dr. Emil Javier, while it was no secret that President Estrada campaigned for Nemenzo.

Antero "Jay" Sison, an MBA student at the Asian Institute of Management, recently filed a criminal complaint with the prosecutor's office in Mandaluyong City against Wolfgang Krueger, general manager of Edsa Plaza Shangri-La Hotel, resident manager Vanessa K. Suatengco, and head of security Basil Balasbas. He also plans to file a deportation case against Krueger. He said that last Aug. 11, his locker at the Edsa Plaza's health club, of which he is a member, was forcibly opened by a thief who stole his wallet containing some cash and various credit cards. One of the stolen cards was used to purchase goods amounting to P29,000. Sison immediately reported the theft to the management.

On Aug. 21, the security officers of Edsa Plaza apprehended Florencio Cabrera, in whose person they found Sison's wallet and credit cards, and four different keys. But Sison lamented that the hotel management failed to inform him of the apprehension, and as a result, the suspect was released by the police and the fiscal due to "lack of a complaint." Sison's lawyer said this failure violated PD 1829, otherwise known as the "Obstruction of Apprehension and Prosecution of Criminal Offenders," which carries a maximum penalty of six years.

I will present the other side in my next column.

The Bolivars and their friends, though, have a simple explanation for their ability to resist the temptation presented by nearly P39 million in their savings account. They are "Born Again" Christians and while the money could have taken care of them and their teenage children for the rest of their lives in Manila or their native Bicol, "it won't give us peace of mind, more so if the banks run after us."

Certainly, the Bolivars didn't return the money out of a desire to gain publicity or receive the same amount of praise and recognition that came the way of Sulpico, the honest cabbie. And if not for their broker, who felt they deserved to be cited for their honesty and humility, the Filipino Reporter would not even have known about their feat.

Now, INQUIRER readers know all about them, too.

If you have time on your hands this weekend, I would heartily recommend that you watch the movie "Shark Tale." Though, judging from the film's publicity and box-office record in the States, it doesn't need all that much boosting.

Still, I can't resist rooting for this movie, which is a hoot and a howler, and gave our family so much to laugh about. We couldn't help comparing it to Pixar's "Finding Nemo," perhaps because it also touches on "life" undersea. But while "Nemo" sought to faithfully recreate the environment beneath the ocean waves (though how faithful it could be while making sea creatures talk bears me), "Shark Tale" takes no pains at verisimilitude.

Instead, we're treated to a view of undersized life as a microcosm of the big city, including the social strata, with the big player (read: sharks) lordling it at the top of the reef, while the bottom feeders must satisfy themselves with eking out an existence in obscurity and perpetual struggle.

But this is too serious a synopsis for such a lighthearted tale chock-full of pop culture references and homage to recent movies. I particularly enjoyed the way the animated characters resembled the actors whose voices brought them to life, especially Robert de Niro and Renee Zellweger.

came the standard of the *Inmaculada* carried by D. Luis Pajardo, a student and brother of the governor. Beside him was the master of camp and D. Perando Centeno, general of the galleries.

These were followed by the mayors, the councilors (*regidores*) and other gentlemen on horseback, students in pairs also on horseback wearing their robes of brown silk with hoods of scarlet and sleeves of lace. Their buttons were of gold and precious stones. Around their necks were gold chains and jewels. In front of each were servants bearing large candles of white wax. The students also carried staffs of large placards with various paintings, letters and hieroglyphics pertinent to the celebration. One student bore a placard with an oath that they took the following day, vowing to defend the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Finally came the grand chariot with the image of Our Lady decorated with many flowers and gilded angels and a great number of lights. Beneath was a band of clarion players, following eight children dressed in silk and carrying silver candles representing angels singing and praising the Virgin. Behind the chariot came "Original Sin" made up as the devil.

After this, the Order of St. Francis had their 8-day feast. Another celebration was held in the port of Cavite in which all the orders took part again.

At the beginning of the 18th century, even the Archbishop began to wonder whether the celebrations were not excessive since the whole life of the colony came to a halt.

Incredibly, 300 years later, we're still wondering the same thing about holidays and nothing has been done about it either.

But tell that to the politicians.  
(Data from John M. Schumacher, S.J., "Readings in Philippine Church History.")

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

**Biting the bullet**

HAVE you ever come to a point when you wished you did not grow old and that you got stuck in Grade 1 instead? That was a time when all you had to worry about was your baon to school and the rest of the day after school was reserved for playtime.

If you haven't experienced that longing, I do quite often. Everything seemed so simple back then. Every day seemed like a happy day. Dad provided us with everything we needed and gave us anything that we wanted. Waking up in the morning was always pleasant especially when the first thing I saw was my Mom greeting me as I opened my eyes, not to mention the sumptuous breakfast she had carefully prepared waiting for us at the dining table. After I had taken a bath and donned my uniform, my Mom would send me off to school with my favorite baon. When I came home, she would welcome me with a kiss and a very warm hug. After having lunch and taking my afternoon nap, I was allowed to play to my heart's content.

Life was indeed very simple and yet very happy. But that was 20 years ago. As I grew older, I began to discover pain and learned that it was part of living. In the most trying times, I sometimes felt so much pain that I could not see how I could survive. When I was 11, my father left us for another woman. I couldn't understand why he did it. And it became even more painful when I learned that I could not have my favorite chocolate drink because we could no longer afford to buy it and we had to settle for lugaw sprinkled with salt for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I couldn't join my playmates because I had to do the dishes and then look after my two-year-old brother.

My young mind could not comprehend why our family had to move from Anipolo to my mother's province in Mindanao. It was even more puzzling for me to be told by my uncles and aunts that I must be a pillar of strength for my younger siblings, that I must force myself to mature faster than the natural process (if there is such a process) and act as father and mother to my siblings while my Mom tried to get my father discharged from the military service for bigamy and abandoning his legitimate family.

Life became even more complicated when I went to college. My scholarship was a big help, but the stipend I was getting was not enough for my needs. By then my Mom had already found a job, but her income was insufficient to cover all the expenses for the house and our schooling. So I would only ask her for money after I had exhausted all other means to supplement what I got from my scholarship. As an 18-year-old college student, I could not fathom why I still had to look for money to buy myself food 15 minutes before a scheduled exam when my classmates had already finished reviewing all our lessons the night before.

When I finally landed a job after finishing college, I had to help my Mom send my brothers to school. Although life became a bit more bearable, I still had to think hard whether I should replace my worn-out socks or give the money to my brothers for their Christmas party. I was resigned to the fact that life was more complicated than international politics or our basketball coach's instructions during a crucial period of a game.

People tell me, "Life is simple, just don't make it complicated." Their explanations about how simple life can be almost always make me feel good—until reality strikes. Then I again realize that there will always be trade-offs, that we can never have the best of both worlds. Life is simple only in the sense that it presents you with choices. Everything else is complicated, especially when you are compelled to decide which choice to take.

This point was brought home to me very clearly when, just recently, I had to give up the woman I wanted to marry not because I didn't love her enough but because it would have meant turning my back on my brothers at a time when they needed me most and condemning them to live miserable lives in the future. She asked me to choose between her and my brothers. I was compelled to make a choice, and I made the most painful decision I had to make in my whole life. Though it hurt so bad to let her go, I knew that she would have a better life without me and that thought alone makes me happy, at least for her.

As for me, I'll get by. I intend to make sure that my siblings won't go through what I had to endure. Besides, I have not completely given up on her yet. Maybe, just maybe, I'll end up with her and there will be a time when I will be spending every waking moment with her.

Leo, 27, is a graduate in political science from the University of the Philippines Baguio and works in Zamboanga City.

**THEY SAID****Competing love**

"I think she's competing with Dominique for Tony's attention. And it's sad because she can keep on trying—but she's not cute. My daughter is."

—Actress Gretchen Barretto on why she thinks the mother of her long-time partner, Randy Boy Cujunaga, still cannot accept her grandchild with the actress

**Obstructive economy**

"Common ground is difficult to find, especially if one allows the media to dictate one's perspective on a daily basis, where the norm is to crunch out depressing news one after the other."

—Social Welfare Secretary Corason "Dinky" Soliman, urging top human resources experts to ignore reports about the poor state of the economy that obstruct efforts to unite the private and public sectors in solving the fiscal crisis

**Accomplished coach**

"I think I've accomplished everything any college coach could wish for."

—De La Salle University coach Frans Pumaren in announcing his retirement after his fifth championship in the seven years he coached De La Salle's senior basketball team

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## Compartmentalized justice?

TEN days ago, I wrote the Chief Justice a letter expressing my concern and disappointment over a news item I read in the Inquirer about a judge in Isabela City (Judge Maxwe Rosete) who was meted out an extremely light penalty (four months suspension without pay) by the Supreme Court for the very serious and grave offense of extorting P150,000 from a litigant in his court (PDI, 9/11/04).

On its Sept. 23 issue, the Inquirer reported a similar incident: a Cebu City judge (Judge Agapito L.

Hontanosas Jr.) "sacked" by the Supreme Court, also for trying to extort P250,000 from a litigant in his court.

Why was Hontanosas dismissed from office and Rosete only suspended when both committed the same offense? Did the disparity in the amount attempted to be extorted (P150,000 in the case of Rosete and P250,000 in the case of Hontanosas) make the difference? Or was it the fact that one is an RTC judge and the other was an MTC judge?

I believe extortion is a very



grievous, deplorable and condemnable offense for any judge regardless of hierarchy or the amount involved.

Rosete should have also been dismissed.

—REX G. RICO,  
47 Cardaya Condominium,  
133 Salcedo St.,  
Laguna Village, Makati City

## LWUA not contributing to budget deficit

THE LOCAL Water Utilities Administration has been reported in the media as among the government-owned and -controlled corporations incurring losses year after year, thus contributing to the ballooning budget deficit.

We would like to set the record straight in the interest of truth and fairness.

1. The LWUA has not received any subsidy from the national government since 2003. In fact, it has yet to receive a single centavo from its Congress-approved appropriations for the years 2000-2002, amounting to a combined P587.123 million.

2. The LWUA only requested and received regular "subsidy" starting in 1992, following the depletion of its authorized capital stock of P2.5 billion which was used to provide the equities for its foreign-assisted water projects and to underwrite locally-funded water supply projects nationwide—around 1,200 projects all in all from 1973-1991. Nonetheless, the P2 billion requested and released during 1992-1999 were

not subsidies per se but were "advance equity," chargeable against the requested increase in LWUA capitalization (from P2.5 billion to P10 billion). The request has been pending in Congress since the mid-90s.

3. The LWUA is not a losing GOCC; it is very much on its own, financially speaking. Despite the non-release of its budgetary appropriations and its being stricken off the list of subsidized agencies since last year it has been able to sustain its lending and other operations. This the LWUA has been able to do by tapping other local sources of funds, such as the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the countrywide development fund of some regions, and the internal revenue allotments of some local government units. In the past two years the LWUA was able to cash more than P1 billion annually for projects. This year it gets P2 billion for such disbursements. Speaking of its loan-lending operations, the LWUA has been averaging 86 per-

cent in loan collection and more than P1 billion in actual loan collection over the past two years.

4. The LWUA is paying off its own debts and other financial obligations. It is among the few GOCCs who are current in foreign-debt servicing, while religiously paying taxes and even returning dividends to the national government. Over the years, the LWUA has paid P302 million in income taxes, and P420 million in dividends to the national government. Last year alone, the LWUA paid the national treasury P601 million for the servicing of its government-guaranteed foreign loans.

5. The LWUA is implementing a standardized salary scheme from the administrative level down. Notwithstanding the LWUA's improving financial operations, the agency has not applied for exemption from the salary scale.

—LORENZO H. JAMORA,  
Administrator,  
Local Water Utilities  
Administration,  
Katipunan Road, Balara, QC

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## The root cause of our economic crisis

THE PRICES of basic goods and commodities continue to soar but the minimum wage remains low. Widespread and appalling corruption and the plunder of public coffers involving high officials of the land. Grandstanding politicians trying to outdo one another with cheap gimmicks. Political accommodations here and there. Factories closing down. Abductions and killings in the country side. Low and garbage television shows. Pornographic videos and magazines proliferating left and right. Thieves stealing here, robbers striking here. Peso sliding down.

We don't have to be economists to know that our economy is in a deep fix. And this explains the rapid spread of Filipinos into the farthest corners of the world. Others are even willing to risk their heads. Literally, in Iraq just to earn money for their families.

Ours is not just any "fiscal crisis." Our problem is our economy itself. The fiscal crisis is a mere part of it. The truth is that, our economy has long been mired in crisis. And if we fail to identify the root causes of this crisis, no amount of "Bayanhan Fund" would be enough to solve our woes. Band-aid solutions can never be a cure for a cancer-stricken economy like ours.

One of the reasons why we have fallen into a crisis is the "export-oriented" and "import-dependent" character of the Philippine economy. There never was a concrete program for national industrialization, or a sincere program for agricultural modernization (not achievable without genuine land reform). We only export low-value raw materials and semi-manufactured products. On the other hand, we import high-value finished products. The result is a trade deficit, which has prompted

the government to borrow and borrow money. And to our woe, the borrowed money ends up mostly in the pockets of those in power.

Our "export-oriented and import-dependent" economy is a glaring proof of how US imperialism holds our so-called political and economic leaders by the neck. And contrary to what the apologists of Sampanism would like us to believe, our nation is not free.

But we are not born to yield to hopelessness in a situation like this. We will fight for genuine national freedom and democracy. Without genuine freedom, we can never free ourselves from the bondage of a semi-feudal and semi-colonial economy which shows its character by being backward, "export-oriented and import-dependent."

—USMAN ABDURAJAK SALLI,  
abdurajak\_usman@yahoo.com

## Let's help GMA

ACCORDING to Nea H. Cruz "GMA is not serious about tax reforms, budget deficit reduction as well as curbing graft and corruption" (PDI, 9/08/04). We believe otherwise.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is bent on dramatically reining in government spending and reducing the bloated budget deficit. She vowed to become a "forceful President" to enable her to enforce to the hilt the draconian austerity measures her economic managers have drawn up to salvage our country from a debilitating fiscal crisis. She even gave stern warning against all who will attempt to sabotage her fiscal reforms and anti-corruption campaign. Unfortunately, her detractors have done nothing but criticize her every move. Belyaching, bickering and fault-finding seem to be the name of the game nowadays.

We should realize that this problem should not be left just for the government to solve. There is a need to rally the public behind the imposition of new taxes—equitably and timely—by fully explaining the rationale behind it. The people must be informed of the need for more revenues to make the new tax measures more coherent and acceptable to them. Let us not forget that there is no magic cure for our fiscal problems, no magic wand that President Arroyo may wave to bring down the budget deficit overnight.

Other cost-cutting measures are also being proposed to enable the economy to get over

the hump. Cruz must realize that these are all tall orders.

The issue of scrapping the pork barrel has come to the fore. Many do not realize that even the legislators are divided on the pork barrel issue which, if scuttled, could lead to a "virtual stoppage" of public works projects in the country. Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. cautioned that "if pork barrel is scrapped from the national budget, it would bring down infrastructure spending to a dangerous level. We are already the lowest infrastructure spender in the region. Take away the pork barrel, capital outlays will plunge to 1.1 percent of gross domestic product. We cannot have a project hold day without crippling our economy and jeopardizing our need to develop our productive capacity."

As for foreign trips or visits by a head of state, these are deemed necessary as they enhance global partnership, expand our foreign linkages, strengthen our relationships and maximize our economic, political and socio-cultural investment.

President Arroyo has already outlined her priority reform programs. Putting these programs into action will be a tough task. For the sake of the nation, let us close ranks with her and help her achieve her avowed goals.

—LETICIA G. VALBUENA,  
Lat 9 Bldg 29,  
Pedro Gil, Parañaque, Manila

## Our problem is more than lack of money

THE MISERABLE financial condition that we are in right now is distressing not because it has been confirmed by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo, it can actually be felt in our day-to-day existence and we do not know where the change for the better will come if ever it will come.

What has come of our country? I have a 4-year-old daughter and I am afraid that by the time she turns 6, all she will have is a country beaten down to its knees by its economic woes. Where would she go by then?

As I see it, palliatives—the attempts to remove the pork barrel, reduce the salaries of high public officials, improve the collection system, etc.

Our problem is more than just money; it is a problem of morality. We behave as if our politicians owe us, and we ignore their stealing from the public coffers while they are in office, as if it is their right to "reimburse" themselves for the "cash advances" they made to us during the election campaign.

I just wish that for our future and the future

of our children who deserve a better life and country than what we have now, we go back to the Ten Commandments. We should start loving God above ourselves. We should stop stealing from our neighbors and, please, let us not be too technical about it by saying that the government is not our neighbor. We should honor our neighbor's wife. We should honor our father and mother. We should not bear false witness against our neighbor. We must not kill, etc.

The Lord bids us only Ten Commandments. These we can memorize and live by. By following them, we may live a better life as human beings. After all, our nation is not 90 percent Christian or Catholic for nothing. The Lord wants us to be better persons and models for Asia.

Let us be proud of this and live morally. There is no other Philippines where we can go to.

—JONNEL ESPALDON,  
205 Aguirre Ave.,  
BF Homes, Parañaque City

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### Question of the Week

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# INQUIRER *Visayas*

## In praise of the 'patadyong'

By Ma. Diosa Labiste  
Iloilo City

**W**HAT probably defines the Ilonggo is the *patadyong*, a cloth of many colors ever present in homes of rich and poor, in rituals marking an occasion or passage of time, in cradles and graves, in wet markets and fashion runways.

It is a familiar forecast that the *patadyong* will fade away as imports and *ukay-ukay* (used clothing) flood the local market. That is not true.

The *patadyong* has survived centuries of onslaughts of imports of iridescent Chinese silk, cheap cotton from Manchester, England and machine-woven clothes from elsewhere. So, it is safe to say that the *patadyong* is here to stay.

The Ilonggos' attachment to the *patadyong* is more than just shared perception or nostalgia of things past. Their daily interactions with *patadyong* are proof that the traditional cloth has threaded its way into the Ilonggo culture.

According to the West Visayas Study Center at the University of the Philippines, the *patadyong* is more than a garment. It has a myriad of uses, limited only by one's imagination.

The *patadyong* is a garment, a skirt that one gathers at the waist to secure it from falling. For the uninitiated, there are gartered *patadyong*.

In rural areas, women carry heavy loads on their heads while wearing the *patadyong*, secured only by small knot or folded tucks. Their steps hurried but their bearing confident that the cloth stays there forever.

### Multipurpose

The versatile, absorbent *patadyong* is a shroud to protect the head from the noonday sun or rain. It is also an apron and a convenient wipe.

Women wear them when washing clothes or bathing in the river. Since bathing in some rural areas are done in the streams, rivers or springs, the use of the *patadyong* is *de rigueur*.

At home, the cloth has even more uses. It serves as a curtain, a tablecloth, pillowcase and a blanket.

But probably its domestic popular use is a hammock for a baby when tied and suspended on one side by a strong rope. This contraption is called the *abuy-abuy*—something closer to *haby-haby*, referring to the gentle swaying of the hammock. Unlike the open-basket hammock, the *abuy-abuy* safely embraces the baby to sleep and shields it from the glare of light and dust.

In the market, the *patadyong* can serve as a protected bag to wrap ripened vegetables and fruits. In some grassy area at the edge of the market, women raise the skirt higher and disappear into it to answer the call of nature, in full view of the public. Or simply squat with the wrap spread around their feet. It's that easy.

Working with the *patadyong* is always a challenge for Ilonggo fashion designers although they would often complain about the irreverent color schemes and limited width of the material.

Still, they have turned the *patadyong* into gowns, cocktail dresses, resort and formal wear, among others, rescuing it from its quaint ordinariness.

### Colorful stripes

The *patadyong* is made of *bunang*, a cheap cotton thread and woven using the traditional hand-loom locally known as "*tiral*" or "*tidal*."

According to an article from the Center for West Visayas Studies, the designs—the traditional, striped and checkered patterns—have remained the same through centuries of weaving, although the colors have become more diverse with the availability of brighter dyes and colored threads these days.

*Patadyong* weaving is still a source of livelihood for families in the southern towns of Miragao, Igaras and Oton in Iloilo and in Busagong town in Antique.

Hand-loom of the *patadyong* have been busy in southern Iloilo long before the arrival of Spanish colonizers in the Philippines in the 16th century.

According to the center's essay on the history of the *patadyong*, Spanish chronicler Miguel de Loarca wrote that Iloilo was producing substantial quantity of cotton cloth and coarse fabrics from hemp, probably abaca and pineapple.

But the first recorded accounts were from a manuscript written toward the end of the 16th century and found in the book, "The Philippine Islands," which was published in 1903 and written by Emma Blair and James Robertson. It said "the garments and dresses of Visayan women consist of mantles with diverse colored stripes made of cotton."

Italian traveler Giovanni Careri wrote in 1863 that he was impressed by the women of Iloilo weaving cloth of various colors and selling these in the markets.

The essay also said Jean Baptiste Mallat, a French who surveyed native textiles in the Philippines, and John Bowring, the British Governor of Hong Kong, were taken by the beauty of the *patadyong* and other cloth woven by Ilonggo women.

Historians said the late 1800 saw the boom days of the textile industry in southern Iloilo, which fueled the demand for interisland

trade and overseas exports.

The cloth production found markets in Asia, Europe and America. Chinese traders joined the industry as suppliers of cotton threads, and later the Spanish friars joined it.

When Iloilo was opened to world trade, it suffered disadvantages.

In his essay titled "A Queen Dies Slowly: The Rise and Decline of Iloilo City" published in 1982, historian Alfred W. McCoy said the architect of the textile industry's demise was British vice-consul Nicholas Loney.

Loney promoted huge volumes of cheap British cottons from Manchester and encouraged sugar production in Negros as a return

cargo in the 1850s.

Slowly, the shuttles in the hand-loom stopped flying and Iloilo's textile industry began to decline in the 1870s.

Today, the many existing patterns and colors of the *patadyong* are also proof of the skills and creativity of weavers.

*Bilog-bilog* is a pattern with combinations of red, yellow, green squares with black horizontal designs after every three rows of squares.

*Seis cigarillos* is so named because of the six-cigarillo-shaped rectangle of yellow, blue, white, orange and green hues. Its seventh rectangle is square of black, brown or dark green.

"ANG LUKAY sa Patadyong" by Harry Mark Gonzales won consolation prize in the *patadyong* photo contest. The photos are on exhibit at the UP Visayas gallery until Oct. 30.

MA. DIOSA LABISTE



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<sup>1</sup> White, Faich, Borer, Makuch. Cardiovascular Thrombotic Events in Arthritis Trials of the Cyclooxygenase-2 Inhibitor Celecoxib. The American Journal of Cardiology, 2003 92:411-418

<sup>2</sup> Graham et al presented at International Society of Pharmacoeconomics August 2004 and accepted as an abstract at American College of Rheumatology, October 2004. In a retrospective study, no increased risk of heart attacks or sudden cardiac deaths relative to those who had not taken NSAID for at least 60 days.

<sup>3</sup> NDC, August 2004.



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## Help abandoned Amerasians get visas, US told

ANGELES CITY—The city council urged the United States Embassy to hasten the processing of visa applications by "legitimate" Amerasians, the children of American servicemen and Filipino women, in Angeles City.

The resolution, sponsored by Councillor Jay Sangil, called Amerasians as among the "social costs" that this city bore in hosting the former Clark Air Base for almost a century.

Many of about 52,000 Amerasians were left abandoned and unrecognized by their American fathers when American bases and troops were pulled out following the Philippine Senate's rejection of the extension of the 1947 Philippine-US military bases agreement in 1991, according to the National League of Amerasians (NLA).

The NLA has pressed for the passage of a bill in the US Congress recognizing their birthright as Filipino Amerasians.

Marissa Navidad, NLA spokesperson, said a law in the US has recognized Amerasians in Vietnam, Japan and Korea.

According to the resolution, those acknowledged by their fathers wanted to move to the US for a better life but their visa applications have been pending at the embassy in Manila.

Navidad said many want to go to the US to search for their biological fathers.

In another resolution, the council asked the embassy to provide livelihood support for the guardians and caregivers of Amerasians in the city.

In a book, the University of the Philippines' Center for Women Studies said Amerasians and their caregivers have lived a life of abuse, domestic violence, poverty and discrimination.

Both resolutions have been coursed through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Sangil said.

The Clark Development Corp. has no formal assistance program for the Amerasians. Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

# 3 Negros bishops ask landlords to drop land reform resistance

By Carla P. Gomez  
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The three bishops of Negros Occidental yesterday issued a joint statement asking landowners to respect the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and the farmers' right to the lands awarded to them.

They asked the Department of Agrarian Reform to firmly and efficiently implement the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL).

Bishops Patrick Buzon of Kabankalan, Vicente Navarra of Bacolod and Jose Advincula of San Carlos also called on the courts to administer justice fairly and to implement the ruling of the Supreme Court that grants to the DAR the sole authority to hear

and settle agrarian disputes.

They said that while land reform is a formula for progress, its implementation "is dismal in most cases, marred by violence and paralyzed by virtually endless court contests to the detriment" of the farmer-beneficiaries who, being recipients of certificates of land ownership awards (CLOAs), should already have legal claim over the land.

They also noted the escalating agrarian-related violence in the province and urged the local government units and police to enforce the law by filing appropriate charges against the perpetrators.

The directors of the Social Action Centers (SAC) of the dioceses of Kabankalan, Bacolod and San Carlos, Fathers Fr. Rolo Nueva, Aniceto Buenafe and Edwin Lauve, also signed the statement.

The bishops and the SAC directors noted with alarm that from 2000 to September 2004, 39 farmers were illegally attested, 57 were wounded and 15 were killed due to agrarian-related violence.

In 45 CARP-covered haciendas, 58 criminal and civil cases were

filed against more than 3,000 farmers, they also said.

Meanwhile, indigenous peoples' groups are angered by a directive of the President transforming the DAR into the Department of Land Reform in September and gave it the authority to issue ancestral land titles.

This act of the President, through Executive Order 364 issued on Sept. 27, violated the 1997 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), Ibaloi groups said here on Thursday.

Ms. Arroyo, through EO 364, fused DAR, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor (PCUP) under a "social justice"

agency that undertakes "agrarian reform, urban land reform and ancestral domain reform."

Ibaloi said they would question the directive before the courts, arguing that the President had no authority to amend IPRA and other laws like Republic Act 6657, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

Lawyers of the NCIP in the Cordillera are also planning a suit to challenge EO 364, the INQUIRER learned on Thursday.

Lawyer Christine Marrero, DAR Cordillera legal counsel, said they received a copy of the directive only on Monday, but were not briefed about its implications. Vincent Cabresca, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

## Return Our Stolen national treasure

AKBATA

A girl poses in front of a streamer demanding the return of church bells taken by American soldiers as war booty from Eastern Samar at the height of the Philippine-American War. A rally was held recently at the US Embassy demanding the bells' return.



## Waves lead to sinking of ship in Surigao

BUTUAN CITY—Huge waves triggered by bad weather led to the sinking of a cargo ship off the coast of Surigao City late Thursday evening, coast guard authorities said yesterday.

In Zamboanga City, waves towering as high as 15 feet battered a coastal village, leaving dozens of families homeless, also on Thursday.

Surigao City Coast Guard Commander Leopoldo La Manas said 17 of the 18 crew members of the Leyte-bound Alpha Verde had been rescued near the coastal villages of Surigao City, several kilometers from where the ship sank near Hikdup Island.

### Swim to safety

Las Marias said the survivors were wearing life vests and were trying to swim toward the villages when spotted by rescuers.

He said they believed that the 18th crew member, identified as Philjun Daronday, 23, had drowned.

Las Marias said as of late afternoon yesterday, Daronday's body has yet to be found.

The ship, carrying at least 16,000 sacks of cement sailed off from Surigao for Naval in Leyte.

Las Marias said several hours after leaving port, the ship captain, whom he did not identify, started to complain about huge waves in the Surigao Strait.

Then shortly before midnight, the captain dispatched a distress call.

Las Marias said they immediately sent a search and rescue team.

He said the team failed to spot the ship or any of its crewmen but continued with the search despite bad weather.

He said it was not until early morning Friday that they were able to locate the 17 crewmen.

Las Marias said the search for Daronday's body was continuing.

### Drifted

In the Zamboanga City incident, Labuan Village chief Francisco Santos said 60 houses were destroyed when the waves, triggered by strong winds, hit the village at about noontime.

"Around 150 families were affected," Santos said.

He said some of the affected villagers sought refuge at the Labuan Health Center while others stayed with their relatives in nearby villages.

Santos said the waves started to get big on Wednesday triggering evacuations.

Because residents fled before the waves hit the village, no one was harmed, he said.

He said when the waves were getting big on Wednesday, local officials warned villagers but a group of swimmers defied them.

He said one of the swimmers, Anel Abeillo, 32, drowned. His body was recovered Thursday. Franklin Caligud and Julie Alpala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

## Tausugs driven to Malaysian state for education

COTABATO CITY—Sulu's lack of classrooms, teachers and learning materials have sent Tausugs seeking education to the Malaysian state of Sabah, the province's closest trade and information link after Zamboanga City.

Dr. Hamid Lajakahal, secondary schools director of the Department of Education (DepEd) in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the capital town of Jolo, which is in the first legislative district, hosts most of the province's secondary schools but that "it is separated by coral reefs and rough seas" from the island municipalities of the second district.

At a recent briefing with ARMM legislators, Lajakahal said "unlike mainland Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur" that effec-

tively links with neighboring provinces for goods and services, Sulu has only neighboring Zamboanga City and Sabah to rely on not only for trade ties but also for information and education.

He said before the advent of satellite-relayed broadcast and cable television, the Malay airwaves commanded a wide domain of listeners among the Tausug and Sama residents of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Lajakahal himself had to cope with the same problem when he had to go to Marawi City for his college and postgraduate studies at the Mindanao State University main campus.

Dr. Macalnog Saligom, DepEd-ARMM assistant secretary, said the region has one of the lowest survival rate in ele-

mentary level at 48.02 percent from a Grade 1 participation rate of 78.12 percent.

Of this, Sulu has 55.91 percent; Lanao del Sur, 51.65 percent; Tawi-Tawi 52.49 percent; Basilan 39.52 percent; Marawi City, 99.12; and Maguindanao 37.37 percent.

For secondary level, Basilan posted 63.25 percent; Maguindanao, 54.59; Lanao del Sur Division I, 63.35 percent; Lanao del Sur Division II, 48.98 percent; Marawi City, 98.89 percent; Sulu, 60.72; and Tawi-Tawi, 45.75 percent.

Except for Basilan and Sulu, each of these provinces hosts at least one campus for the main campus in the case of Lanao del Sur of the MSU system. Basilan has Claretian Christian Missionary High School and College school,

while Jolo hosts one of Mindanao's biggest Notre Dame College schools. Maguindanao has two MSU campuses for undergraduate and postgraduate programs.

With a total current enrollment population of 520,658 in elementary level and 83,295 in secondary level, the region posted a shortage of 2,732 classrooms for elementary schools, and 536 for public high schools.

Of the five ARMM provinces, Maguindanao has a relatively better road network and infrastructure facilities and its high rate of elementary and high school dropouts is attributed much to displacement of families caused by recent armed conflicts.

Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau

## Troops acquire skills on public speaking, speech

COTABATO CITY—After reaching soldiers about reporting during a 10-day workshop in August, the military trained anew its personnel, this time on crafting and delivering speeches.

The 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao recently sent at least 25 Army officers, mostly assigned to its civil-military operations unit, to a two-day workshop on public speaking, purportedly to enhance the military's "psywar and propaganda" department.

"The better tool to peace is dialogue and a good communicator must be persuasive and sound in putting the message across," Capt. Onting Alon, 6th ID's deputy spokesperson, said.

Dubbed as the "Speakers Bureau Trainor's Seminar," the public speaking workshop was conducted by the Philippine News Agency (PNA) and the Notre Dame University (NDU) here this week.

Participants, who included former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels integrated into the military, came from different units under the 6th ID.

The units cover areas of the Central Mindanao region, the hotbed of the MILF insurgency.

1Lt. Palo Ayunan of the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade, said the training was a "refreshing experience."

"Others were at a loss on what to say, but I told them it's natural," said Judy Giguenteo, task master and NDU mass communications professor, said.

Brig. Gen. Horacio Lactao, 6th ID deputy commander, said teaching junior officers about public speaking is a priority program. Charle Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

## Pampanga's love affair with frogs

By Tonette Orejas  
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Not only does this city make the biggest and brightest lanterns in the Philippines.

Yesterday, it tapped an old Kapampangan culinary tradition, seeling many of its residents troop to swamps and streets to show the many uses of frogs, one of which is a food item amid hard times.

The frog festival, now on its second year, began at 6 a.m. in Barangay San Felipe, east of the city proper.

In the swampy portions of the village, more than 100 men, women and children converged, each armed with bamboo rods and can of worms to show skills

in padusan (frog catching).

Rafael Santos, also of San Felipe, bested more than 40 participants. Santos' catch, the judges counted, was six big pieces, taken within the 30-minute limit.

Rosa Garcia and Abet Cabrera placed second and third, respectively.

The rest of the morning was devoted for events never before held in any part of the country.

In what is dubbed the Frog Olympics, the amphibians were made to race for three meters, jump the farthest and weigh the heaviest. A "best dressed" frog was also selected among the entries.

Elementary school students Roel Morales, John James Gopez and John Paul Sayco appeared to have mastered the

games their fathers played with their pets turning out winners in the long jump, race and heaviest categories, respectively.

They don't have a name for their pets, just plain "Kokak," like the event's mascot, "Kokak Tugak."

Best of all, the festival put smiles on the faces of schoolchildren.

The educational part of it was that they were told the frogs are barometers of a healthy environment, said Roland Quiambao, chair of the city arts and cultural council.

"When frogs cease being around, that tells us they're gone because their habitat has stopped being friendly to them. So far, there still many frogs here many based on their loud croaking and the large catch we make daily," Quiambao told the

INQUIRER.

The 3 p.m. frog cooking contest was much awaited by the adults, he said.

Old recipes—betate (frogs stuffed with frog meat enhanced with tangle or lemon grass), adobo, tirula, lelut (porridge) and almondegas (chopped frog meat mixed with flour, formed into balls and boiled)—were awaited not only for the servings but for the best way by which these were prepared.

Quiambao has added a novelty dish—hamburger frog.

To this date, Quiambao said they have yet to find the bases to the Kapampangan tradition of cooking and eating frogs.

"Perhaps because frogs are abundant in Pampanga?" he



## Safety of peace monitors assured

By TJ Burgonio

TOP MILITARY officials yesterday assured the team of international ceasefire monitors from Malaysia of their safety in southern Philippines.

Official said that military personnel and their counterparts in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front will secure the monitors when they go around rebel strongholds in Mindanao.

Some 50 Malaysian military officers and government officials are arriving in Manila today as part of the international team that will oversee the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF.

"When they visit MILF communities, they will be provided security jointly by the MILF and the military," Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, government representative to the coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities, said in an interview.

### Covert

"He, however, pointed out that the military and the rebel group would merely provide "covert security" for the monitors in urban centers so as not to draw too much attention to them.

"They will be provided ample security; they will never go out by themselves. They will be properly secured," added Rafael Seguis, foreign affairs undersecretary for special concerns.

The Malaysian monitoring team, headed by Maj. Gen. Dato Sulkheli bin Mohamad Zin, will arrive aboard a Malaysian Air Force C-130 plane at the Villamor Air Base at around 3:30 p.m.

They will join an advance team of nine Malaysians, who arrived in Mindanao weeks ago to prepare the logistics needs of the main delegation.

Brunei is also sending a 10-man monitor-

ing team on Oct. 15. Other members of the Organization of Islamic Conference, such as Bahrain and Libya, also plan to send monitors, officials said.

"The cessation of hostilities is holding," Seguis said in an interview. "It should work even better with the presence of the monitors. Their arrival will strengthen the cessation of hostilities."

### Agreement working

MILF spokesperson Ed Kabalu on Friday welcomed the arrival of the Malaysian monitors, saying "That's a major development because it shows that the agreements are working and are being implemented."

The involvement of international monitors in the peace process, along with the repositioning of government troops from a former rebel stronghold and the dropping of charges against rebel leaders, was a condition for the resumption of talks.

Throughout their stay, the international monitoring team will be based in Cotabato City, but will maintain mobile offices in Zamboanga, Iligan, Davao and General Santos cities.

Yano said the areas to be visited by the monitors would depend on any "situation that will crop up."

Kabalu had said that he doesn't expect the formal talks to resume this year because of the delayed withdrawal of troops from Bulik complex, and the dropping of criminal charges against rebel leaders. "Besides, I have this feeling that Malaysia wants an agreement to be forged on the ground before the talks resume. It wants any formal talks to be merely a venue for the formal signing of agreements," he said.

Seguis, however, said the MILF has requested the resumption of exploratory talks after Ramadan, the Muslims' holy month of fasting.

## We did it, CPP/NPA says of Tabara slay

From page A1

Stephen Ong, Nilo de la Cruz, acting chair of the breakaway Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPM-P), told the Inquirer in a telephone interview yesterday.

The killing of Tabara and Ong occurred in the wake of CPP demands for the rebels to be removed from the US blacklist as a foreign terrorist organization. The CPP has been engaged in sporadic peace talks with the Philippine government.

Tabara broke away from the CPP in 1992. He was the latest of a lengthening list of guerrilla leaders killed after leaving the communist mainstream.

### 'They came to kill'

De la Cruz disputed the CPP claim that the NPA intended to arrest Tabara.

"It was not an arresting unit but a liquidation squad," said De la Cruz, who headed the urban hit squad Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) before it broke away from the CPP-NPA in the early 1990s.

"Foolishness," De la Cruz said, adding that the accusations against Tabara were not true.

De la Cruz said he was not sur-

prised at the NPA owning up the killings. "They are the only ones with the motive and the persistence to attack us," he said.

While Tabara's comrades hoped the killers would be arrested, De la Cruz said it would be hard to catch them because of their "guerrilla" style of operations.

"Only their support units are still in Manila while they are based in the periphery of Manila, like Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog," he said.

Rosal also claimed that Tabara had long been in cahoots with police in running and protecting kidnap-for-ransom and drug trafficking syndicates.

The CPP's official organ, "Ang Bayan," said cases against Tabara included alleged complicity in the murder of an elderly farmer in Escalante, Negros Occidental, in March 2002, a bank holdup in Bayawan, Negros Oriental, in May 2002 that resulted in the death of four bank employees; and the 1989 kidnapping of Bombo-Radyo executive Roger Florete in Iloilo City that supposedly involved a P15-million ransom.

Tabara's comrades in the RPM-P have consistently denied the allegations and vowed to strike back at

what they said were fanatics in the rebel movement.

### PNP gathering evidence

PNP officials said they were convinced the killings were the handiwork of the "special operations group" (SOG) of the CPP's military's staff.

Director Arturo Lomibab, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief, said this was the same group that killed Filemon "Ka Popoy" Lagman and Romulo "Ka Rolly" Kintanar, two other top communist leaders who had severed their ties with the CPP.

Shortly after learning about the CPP's admission, PNP chief Edgar Aglipay said Rosal would be included on the list of persons police were planning to charge in connection with the Tabara killing.

Police said they were also gathering evidence against Leo Velasco, head of the CPP military staff, and Prudencio Calubid, SOG commander.

Tabara's group entered into a peace accord with the government in 1999. Since then, his followers have worked with soldiers to hunt NPA guerrillas on Negros. With a report from Christian V. Esquerro)

## Common folk help turtles find way back to the sea

From page A1

tured, and released to the sea a number of sea turtles accidentally trapped in fishing nets for the past two months.

Antonio Macasaet Jr., a fisherman and barangay council member from Puerto Princesa City, was hailed as an "inspiration" by the World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines for saving nine turtles in September alone.

The nine creatures entered Macasaet's fish cage in the waters off Barangay Inagawan. Luckily for the turtles, the fish cage owner happened to be the chair of the barangay committee on the environment, the WWF said yesterday.

Before releasing the turtles, Macasaet followed "conservation protocols" by first notifying concerned agencies, including the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, and the Tubatuba Management Office.

### Incentives in Batangas

The Penro put identification tags on the turtles before letting them go, the WWF added. Penro records showed that a total of 298 sea turtles have been caught and then released in Palawan waters alone since 1996.

Elsewhere, in the coastline village of Laiya-Apiaya in San Juan, Batangas, barangay chair Wivin "Bunching" Llana has devised a unique incentive system for any fisherman who surrenders a sea turtle.

The 57-year-old Llana, who also owns a beach resort in Laiya, had been offering P500 for every rescued turtle. As of last week, a total of 13 turtles—including injured and egg-laying ones—have found temporary shelter, thanks to the Kapitán.

Llana would keep the turtles for a few days in a pond inside his Kabayan resort, have a veterinarian take a look at them, before setting them loose. It didn't take long before the environmental group Mother Earth Philippines heard of his deeds.

"The turtles—at one point we had one believed to have come all the way from Japan—have been drawn to Batangas because our waters are not yet polluted and the fishing here is good. But they are sometimes caught in nets and hooks," Llana told the Inquirer two weeks ago in an interview arranged by MEP.

### Superstition

Environmentalists can partly thank local superstition for his constituents' kindness toward the turtles, he explained.

While they of course welcome the P500 reward, Laiya villagers believe its "bad luck" to have turtles as pets, he said.

A municipal ordinance in San Juan also imposes a ban on sale of turtles as well as dolphins, he added.

Curiously, Llana maintained that he didn't consider himself a true-blue nature lover at all.

"I just know there's a law and I'm just want the people to be more aware of it," he said.

### Endangered

The WWF said there are seven known species of marine turtles in the world, all of them on the endangered list. Among the more commonly sighted in Philippine waters are the hawksbill, green, and leatherback turtles, the last being the most threatened.

Of Macasaet's rescue efforts, WWF officer Zoe Larumbo said: "It is inspiring to know that there are people who respect nature and actually do their share in environmental conservation."

"Such a small act, if pooled together, will help reverse the bleak forecast of biodiversity loss (in the country)," Larumbo added.

In his recent close encounters with them, Llana said indeed, turtles do cry in captivity.

"But it's not exactly because they

experience self-pity, although that what we tend to believe. I was told that the salt in their eyes melt when their taken out of the sea," he said.

## Chavit out of jueteng . . .

From page A1

longer involved in the illegal numbers game or jueteng.

"Jueteng will not survive in Ilocos without the say-so or protection of (Singson)," said Estrada in a statement that he sent to the Inquirer.

Singson, whose revelations that he acted as a collector of jueteng protection money for Estrada precipitated the disgraced leader's ouster, said in an interview that jueteng had become "too hot" for him and that he was getting out of the game.

"Do you believe him when he said that?" Estrada said in the note that he sent to this reporter.

In an interview with the Inquirer last Thursday, Singson said he was "totally out of jueteng" because, among other reasons, he had "more pressing problems to deal with."

He denied having any knowledge of big-time jueteng operations or of their police and government protectors that Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz had said he planned to name.

Singson also said that he favored the legalization of the numbers game.

### Denial

In his note, Estrada denied yet again the allegations that Singson made during his impeachment trial in 2001 and during his ongoing trial for corruption and plunder at the Sandiganbayan.

Aside from the jueteng protection money that he allegedly collected for Estrada, Singson had claimed that he had also delivered a part of the P170 million that was Ilocos Sur's share of the tobacco excise taxes to the ousted President.

Estrada's defense lawyers have tried to destroy the credibility of Singson, who is the main prosecution witness, accusing him of allegedly stealing the excise tax funds and presenting alleged Commission on Audit reports showing that the governor had "unliquidated cash advances" amounting to millions of pesos.

### 'Stealing since FYR time'

Singson claimed he took the Ilocos Sur excise tax funds on the bidding of Estrada.

"He's lying. He was already stealing from the government during the time of (President) Ramos," Estrada said in his letter, claiming that the COA had found that Singson could have made off with close to a billion pesos in ill-gotten wealth.

Estrada said that the jueteng protection money that Singson allegedly delivered to him was actually money that Singson had contributed on his own behalf to the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation. He said Singson had done this to allegedly cover up his corrupt activities in Ilocos Sur.

"If I wanted the money for myself, I would not have placed it in the foundation," he said.

The Inquirer tried to reach Singson but was told that he was in Hong Kong.

### Destroying credibility

But in an earlier interview, the governor said Estrada's lawyers were making things up to destroy his credibility as a witness.

"They cannot hit the issue squarely so they are picking on me. Whatever they say, the case against [Estrada] remains strong," he said in a telephone interview.

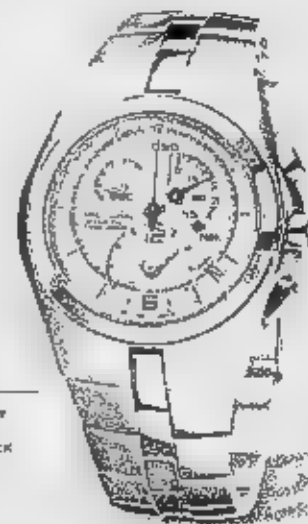
He also claims to have already settled his unliquidated cash advances for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001.

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A HUNDRED DAYS OF GMA. Hunger speaks louder, say protesters from militant groups in Caloocan on Friday to mark President Arroyo's three months in office. They warned the government to expect more and bigger protest rallies in the next few days. JONAS BONDOC

## Let axe fall where it may, says Palace

From page A1

the command."

He said the President's attendance at the summit should prove that domestic issues and "the harshest and most unfair media tirades" would not stop her from doing "her duty."

Other Palace officials could not say if Ms. Arroyo would at least ask for the names of these officials or order an investigation.

"We don't know who he (Robles) is referring to and where he based his information. It's hard to make a reaction on that," said Gabriel Claudio, Ms. Arroyo's political adviser. "But on a personal note, I think rather than the President ordering an investigation or the Cabinet undertaking an inquiry among its members, if there is somebody like Captain (sic) Robles who has information on alleged irregularities, why doesn't he share it with the appropriate authorities?" Claudio added.

Robles is a retired commodore.

### Transparency

Silvestre Afable III, the President's communications director, issued a similar reaction in a phone interview: "I have not seen a report on that. It's hard to comment on something that was just aired in the media."

"Of course, Ma acañang will act on any evidence that is brought in on any anomaly, but I guess that is addressed primarily to the Ombudsman. It's not really up to Ma acañang in the first instance to investigate."

Later in the day, Afable issued this statement: "The President will not condone unlawful conduct at any level of the government. The Palace will investigate if evidence or reliable information is brought forth. I am not aware of any official communication from the US government on this matter."

"We affirm transparency and due process and if anyone has any facts, he or she is urged to submit these. But we will not jump into rash probes of generalistic allegations because Cabinet members enjoy the confidence of the President and should be treated with respect."

### Solving the problem

Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, AFP deputy chief of staff, said the call for the resignation of the top military leadership would "not solve any prob-

## Colonel says he's cleared

By Jani Arnaiz  
and Jhunmex Napallacan  
PDI Visayas Bureau

MAASIN CITY—The former budget officer of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia yesterday said he would welcome the reopening of the case on his alleged ill-gotten wealth because he had nothing to hide.

In a phone interview, Col. George Rabusa said that he was cleared by the Ombudsman the first time he was investigated in 2002 and that he was confident he would be cleared again.

Rabusa's name has been mentioned as among those being investigated by the AFP for unexplained wealth. He was accused of amassing some P50 million in real estate, vehicles and cash deposits.

Currently chief of operations of the Armed Forces' Cebu-Central Command (Centcom), Rabusa said he was not in hiding and would make himself available to investigators if called.

Col. Jefferson Omandam, Centcom spokesperson, said Rabusa remained chief of operations and had not gone on leave.

He said Rabusa left for Manila on Thursday to attend a series of conferences and activities in Camp Aguinaldo and would be in Manila until Oct. 15.

Rabusa refused to talk about his family, particularly his wife Debbie, who, he said, had been unfairly dragged into the case.

lem" and "might just create more problems."

He was responding to Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's statement the other day that AFP chief Gen. Narciso Abaya and other senior military officials should resign in view of the corruption scandal involving Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, among others.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo has ordered Garcia, former AFP comptroller, to explain in writing within 10 days why he

should not be charged in court for corruption.

"Based on available records, the Office of the Ombudsman determined... that the submitted evidence against Major General Garcia is quite strong," Agence France Presse quoted Marilyn Galvez, spokesperson for the special prosecutor, as saying.

Adan told ANC television that Abaya and other military and defense officials had set in motion "mechanisms and processes" to address the problem.

Instead of calling for their resignation, Adan said, various sectors in society should support Abaya and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz in moves to stamp out corruption in the military.

"General Abaya has been pursuing the Philippine defense reform measures since two years ago, after the joint defense assessment made between the AFP and US defense officials," Adan said.

He said the assessment revealed "the weaknesses of the AFP in all aspects, not just in operations but [also] in financial [matters] and logistics."

"Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz is on top of it," Adan said, adding:

"All the weaknesses, the lack of capability and the capability gaps, as we call it, have been discovered and known. So the action is now being taken. It is very focused."

### Another mutiny

The militant farmers' alliance Kilusang Magbubukang Pilipinas warned of another mutiny reminiscent of the one mounted by junior officers last year in Makati.

"This is indeed very fertile ground for military adventurists to exploit, unless the government does something decisive against its erring generals," said KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos.

Ramos pressed for the investigation of Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, a former defense secretary, and retired general Victor Corpus, whom the Magdalo mutineers had earlier accused of corruption. The leaders of the Magdalo group have since withdrawn their accusation and apologized.

He alleged that the generals accused of corruption were "very close" to Reyes. With reports from Alcuin Papa and Norman Baddadora; Michael Lum Ubat in Hanoi

## 'Conversion' is source of AFP corruption

From page A1

a "tolerance" to this practice during the martial law years.

Robles said the total amount of funds lost to conversion was difficult to compute because it would depend on how much a unit or command was actually getting as its budget.

"Judge it from the money that is coming out. The spring cannot rise higher than its source," he said, adding that certain generals were suffering "a fatal addiction" to money.

Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, spokesperson of the AFP admitted that the corruption scandal involving generals was partly the result of a "flawed, defective and weak" system of checks and balances in the military.

But Adan was quick to point out in an interview over ANC television that AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz were "on top" of the situation and were addressing the problem.

Robles expressed agreement with Adan in a talk with reporters: "The situation itself is hard to control because, what are the checks and balances there? There is a lack of supervision."

He also noted the loss of a sense of values among military officers.

"For them, it is their right to take the money..." he said in Filipino. "It seems they hold contests on who can get more money. Sometimes you will hear some officers saying they were able to get this much. So there will be some teasing that another officer got more."

### Imagine

When asked how rampant the practice of conversion was in the military, Robles cited the case of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia: "If a person like Garcia, who is a comptroller, can amass \$2 million, how rampant do you think it is? You can deduce it from the other end—how much comes out [for goes to graft], if the wastage from a mere comptroller is that big. Just imagine how rampant it is."

Garcia was suspended last

September by the AFP on orders of the Ombudsman after it was discovered that he did not declare some of his property in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth.

The AFP investigated Garcia after one of his sons was caught with \$100,000 at the San Francisco airport in the United States last December. But the probe was discontinued for lack of evidence.

Garcia was transferred from the Office of the Comptroller to plans and programs.

### What's the solution

When asked, Robles was unable to suggest a solution to the problem of corruption in the military.

"If you will not love your country, if you are greedy and if your sense of values has been distorted, what is the solution? If you are greedy, what is the solution to greed? I don't know," he said.

He added: "The generals are not sensitive to whether what they are doing is right. They are not thinking about the things they are doing. They are addicted to acquiring money. If you put away P5 or P10 million, it's almost understandable. But P100 million—that hurts."

### Fatal addiction

"A lot of our generals are suffering from a certain sort of illness. It's a fatal form of addiction to money, to the acquisition of illegally earned money or wealth."

The other day, Robles disclosed that two other generals and three Cabinet-level officials were facing investigation and indictment by US authorities for allegedly stashing large dollar accounts in the United States.

Robles is a former member of the Reform the AFP Movement (RAM) and of the Feliciano Commission, which investigated the root causes of the failed mutiny mounted by the Magdalo group last year.

Among other things, the Feliciano Commission recommended that corruption in the military be addressed to avoid any more military adventures by junior officers.

## PAF pilot saves 100 ...

From page A1

oil temperature just minutes after taking off from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, said Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla.

Zambrano then disabled the outer right engine after it manifested a "discrepancy" and immediately turned the plane around for an emergency landing at the airport, Padilla said.

### Screeching halt

Fearing the aircraft could overshoot the runway and plow into vehicles and homes on a nearby road, the pilot stepped on the brakes, causing two tires to blow out but finally bringing the plane to a screeching halt.

The military cargo plane was ferrying 129 members of the Presidential Security Group and

several search dogs to Bohol, Padilla said. President Macapaga-Arroyo is scheduled to visit the province today shortly after her arrival from Hanoi.

The presidential guards were transferred to another C-130.

### Airport shut down

The airport reopened to traffic some three hours after it was shut down by the military cargo plane that became stranded in the middle of a runway, officials said.

Emergency services towed the aircraft away from the middle of the runway more than three hours later, and flights resumed at the country's busiest airport in mid-morning, airport control tower officials said.

Several outgoing international flights were delayed while incoming jets were diverted to other airports elsewhere in the country during the emergency. AP/AFP

## AFP graft eyed in murder of colonel

From page A1

cluding a Cherokee jeep and a Toyota Altis, the investigator said.

He said the late Heredia, who received a basic monthly salary of about P17,835 (See table) as colonel, had also allegedly invested "several millions" in a lending house. As form of payment, the lending firm gave Heredia several post-dated checks, some of which matured only months after his murder, the investigator said.

A 1975 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), Heredia, 49, was instructor at the National Defense College of the Philippines in Camp Aguinaldo at the time of his death.

### From buttons to tanks

From 1999 to 2002, he headed the Army logistics, an office known among soldiers as G4.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, who once served as G4, said the office handles the procurement of everything that the soldiers need, "from buttons to battle tanks."

### Driven by anger

"Who would have known Raul was going to his parents' house, unless somebody was monitoring him?" said Agapito Heredia.

He said that whoever ordered the killing must have been driven "by a powerful

anger (masyadong malaki ang gahi)."

Raul left his Camp Aguinaldo house at about 6:30 a.m. for the 10-minute drive to V. Luciano. While on the way, he called his sister to ask her to open the gate.

"His sister was coming down to open the gate when Raul was shot," Heredia said.

### Fruitless investigation

The retired Heredia, now 86, said he had approached Commodore Tinso Danga, current chief of Isaf and classmate of Raul at the PMA for the results of the investigation that Isaf had reportedly conducted.

"But Danga said they had stopped the investigation because Raul's death was not a national security matter," said Heredia, who was himself an investigator for 23 years.

The Isaf was apparently pursuing the angle that the New People's Army (NPA) was behind Raul's killing, but when the NPA disowned it, the Isaf turned the case over to the National Bureau of Investigation.

### NBI takes over

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco confirmed the Heredia case was transferred to the Bureau in March. But he would not elaborate, beyond saying that the case was in the hands of the NBI-National Capital Region chief Atty. Edmundo Arugay.

"The case is being investigated. We are

working on it," Wycoco told the INQUIRER last month. He said the NBI was the fourth agency to investigate the Heredia killing.

The Central Police District and the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) also initiated their own probes, following the NPA angle. Both also stopped after the NPA disavowed any hand in the killing.

"Some of my relatives are already taunting me, like we don't know anybody," said Heredia, a 1943 graduate of the PMA.

Raul's direct kin also refused to comment on the case.

### Family of soldiers

"We will just leave it to the authorities. That is the proper thing to do," said Senior Supt. Renato Heredia, Raul's younger brother.

Raul was one of several Heredias connected to the military and the police service. The oldest among them is Agapito Sr., whose brother, Pedro, is the father of Raul.

Pedro graduated from the PMA in 1952. His footsteps would be followed later by sons, Raul, in 1975; Renato, 1977 and Rommel, 1979. Their first cousin, Agapito Jr., graduated from the academy in 1970.

### Baffling questions

Another cousin is retired police General Rey Berroya, a 1969 PMA graduate,

## Army colonel killed in QC

By Tim Sanabes

ONE OF two armed men gunned down an Army colonel in Quezon City yesterday morning.

Col. Raul Heredia, 49, an instructor at the National Defense College of the Philippines in Camp Aguinaldo, was slain as he was parking his car at his parents' house on V. Luciano Street, Barangay Masagana, Project 4, Q.C.

Heredia is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (Class 1975).

According to the Central Police District, Heredia was shot several times in the body with a 9-mm pistol at 6:45 a.m.

The suspects then reportedly fled on board a motorcycle.

Heredia was rushed to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center but died as he was undergoing treatment.

CPD Criminal Investigation Unit chief

ing the motive for the killing. However, CPD director Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro said there were indications that the shooting was a case of mistaken identity.

According to Castro, the real target could have been Heredia's brother, Renato, who is a ranking police officer assigned in Camp Crame.

"He might have been mistaken by the killers for his brother," the CPD chief said. But Castro could not say for certain why anyone would want to target Renato for assassination.

"Morang isang nakababangyong mga sindakito yang lapad nga kapa gustang ipa-

paray," he said.

The CPD released yesterday an arrest sketch of one of the suspects in the killings.

Authorities describe the gunman as be-

ing 30 to 40 years old, 5'6" tall, medium

the Heredias said.

Who killed Raul and why have baffled even Heredia's classmates.

"There are so many rumors and theories going around," said Mistah (former

classmate) and Adm. Arthur Gosingan, chief of the Philippine Coast Guard. "It's time for the concerned agencies to come out with results of the investigation, if they really are investigating."



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MEGALOTTO 6/45

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## Cops need shooting practice, says official

By Luigi A. del Puerto

ONLY 10 of Marikina City's 281 policemen are capable of shooting a gun and hitting their target, the results of a three-day firing proficiency test showed.

Two of the 10 considered as marksmen are from the city's Special Weapons and Tactics team. They were PO1 Robert Crimen and PO2 Marvin Cabagui.

The other marksmen are PO3 Jaime Diaz, SPO2 Oscar Angeles, PO3 Ricardo Mendoza, PO1 Loreto Saniel, PO1 Melchor Marcos, Senior Insp. Carito Briones, PO1 Dominador Pimentel and PO1 Edgar Abaygar.

There are four shooter categories: novice, marksman, sharp shooter and expert. The results mean the rest of the policemen are classified as "novice shooters," whom some senior officials chide as only worthy of carrying bolts.

"This is an eye opener for the (Philippine National Police) leadership. It needs to set aside a budget for ammunition for practice shooting," said Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., Marikina police chief.

This is true, he said, not only in Marikina but all throughout the country.

Although the PNP has a directive requiring each lawman to fire 45 rounds every year, it does not have the money to provide its men with bullets.

In fact, the city police only had the chance to test its men after local arms manufacturer, Armscorp, provided them with bullets.

In return, Marikina agreed to promote its products.

Rojas has called the woe besetting the PNP as "hazardous." "If you have cops who have not fired their guns for months or years, we are not sure who would get shot at once they pull the trigger. This is hazardous," he said.

# LTO to issue IDs for non-drivers

By Clarissa S. Batino

AN IDENTIFICATION card for non-drivers from the agency that issues licenses to motorists?

Stranger things have happened.

If you don't have a passport or a drivers' license, nor are you a member of the Social Security System and you need a valid identification card, then the Land Transportation Office has a solution to your problem.

LTO Chief Anneli Lontoc said her agency would start issuing

IDs to non-drivers next year once the implementing rules and regulations have been drafted and approved.

Unlike the concept of a national ID system, the LTO-issued ID would be non-mandatory, she added.

Lontoc said Malacañang could have chosen the LTO as the issuing agency of the ID because of its accessibility as it had offices nationwide. The LTO also has a good database and facilities, according to her.

Issuing the new ID would be

in line with Executive Order 306 approved last April aimed at preventing the use of false names and identities, Lontoc said.

The EO identified the passport, drivers' license, the SSS and the LTO ID as the four valid, government-issued identification cards.

"The requirements before we issue an ID would also be stringent because this would be one of the only four valid IDs," the LTO chief added.

While Lontoc said the program was still in the planning stage,

she said it would raise additional revenues for the government. She was unable to give any estimates. Just recently, the LTO started selling vanity plates estimated to raise about P3.5 billion for the government over a five-year period.

The LTO is one of the biggest revenue-earning government offices, collecting fees from the issuance of drivers' licenses and motor vehicle registration papers. Last year, the agency accumulated about P7.5 billion in fees, half of which went to the na-

tional treasury.

Lontoc said fees for the non-driver IDs could be similar to the charges for drivers' licenses.

The LTO is planning to increase its fees, charges and penalties by an average of 170 percent upon the approval of the transportation department.

The cost of a non-professional drivers' license would be raised to P600 from the current P180, representing a 233-percent hike.

For professionals, the cost of a new license would be raised from P240 to P450.



CHILD'S PLAY

Children in Cullat, Quezon City, show off their prized "tex"—small, colorful, children's play cards—for trading.

BUCKY ESPERAS

## MMDA to clear Avenida of vendors

By Margaux C. Ortiz

RIZAL Avenue in Caloocan City will be free of illegal vendors beginning today.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will be clearing the avenue from Bonifacio Monument Circle to 7th Avenue, said Sidewalk Clearing Operations chief Bobby Esquivel.

Esquivel said sidewalk vendors had claimed two lanes of the six-lane avenue.

He added that Caloocan Mayor Enrico Echiverri ordered the clearing. "These vendors would have a harder time reclaiming the streets because we have the support of the local government," Esquivel said.

Before the elections, MMDA Chair Bayan Fernando stopped the agency's clearing operations.

MMDA officials said the lack of support from local government forced them to pull out of the clearing of sidewalks.

## 26 QC jail inmates found afflicted with tuberculosis

By Tina G. Santos

AT LEAST 26 inmates at the Quezon City Jail have tuberculosis, a health officer at the jail said yesterday.

Of the number, five were diagnosed this month, but all are currently undergoing treatment at the jail's infirmary.

The official, who refused to be named, disclosed that they already lost two inmates to tuberculosis, or TB, last month.

"Once inside the jail, it is only a matter of time before a patient's condition—specially those with TB—deteriorates," she added.

Prison and local government officials have been blaming overcrowding and poor condition in jails as among the causes of the spread of diseases among inmates.

Earlier, city councilors urged Speaker Jose de Venecia to appropriate funds for the construction of a new detention center.

The councilors, led by Jorge Banar (3rd District), stressed the need for another build-

ing for the Quezon City Jail to prevent riots and the spread of diseases among inmates.

"Overcrowding has brought about subhuman and deplorable conditions inside the jail, often times leading to the inmates' deaths due to various diseases and extreme psychological distress and trauma," the councilors noted.

The Quezon City Jail, a 300-square meter facility at the back of the Central Police District Kamuning Station on Edsa, was built to hold only 400 inmates.

It is currently servicing a population of more than 3,000 prisoners.

The councilors also stressed the city's need for a more spacious and more secure facility that would help inmates reform by recognizing their dignity as human beings.

The city government, through its city planning and development office, has already initiated a study of a proposed penology site that may be situated near the Payatas area, the councilors added.

## Newspaper editor's son falls off jeepney, dies

By Tina G. Santos

A 19-YEAR-OLD student was killed after he slipped and fell off a speeding passenger jeepney in Quezon City the other night.

Victim Peter John Carpio, son of The Philippine Star Sports assistant editor Gerry Carpio, of K 5th Street, Kamuning, hit the pavement and died while being rushed to the hospital.

Investigation showed that Carpio boarded a Cubao-bound jeepney in front of the SM Centerpoint at about 7 p.m. Thursday.

Since there was no more available seat inside, he and a companion decided to hang onto the rear of the jeepney.

However, he lost his grip and fell from the jeepney as it passed Balite Drive.

His head hit the pavement.

His companion, John Michael Hida go, 18, told traffic investigators that the driver, Richard Bagalithog, 28, of Sunflower Street,

Permaline Homes, Marikina City, was driving too fast.

Bagalithog and Hida go brought Carpio to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival.

Doctors said he had a fractured skull. Authorities impounded the jeepney while Bagalithog was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

The death of Carpio came even as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) declared a renewed drive against hanging onto the rear of jeepneys.

On Sept. 28, MMDA Chair Bayan Fernando said that his men would start apprehending jeepney drivers who allow "hangers" in their vehicles.

Fernando said drivers would be fined P500 for overloading. At the same time, "hangers-on" would also be fined for jaywalking.

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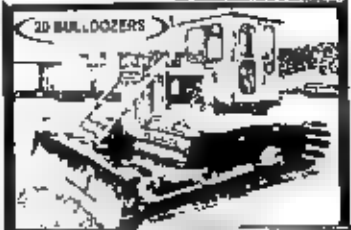
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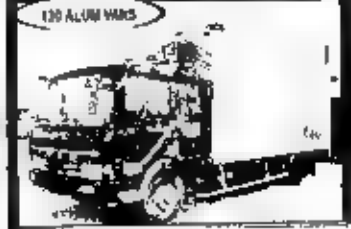
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**MAJOR SPORTS: 2004**  
 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying, 11:55 a.m. (7-7 p.m.); Star Sports, 1 p.m., Sports Plus—Ferrari attempts to grab pole position once more.  
**TENNIS:** AIG Japan Open, 3:30 p.m., Star Sports—The semifinals go underway from Tokyo.  
 Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2004

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres



TAULAVA



HATFIELD



SEIGLE



HARP



PENNISI



ORDONIO



CRISANO



PENA

## Asi, et al. to be declared Pinoys

**DOJ panel set to recognize 8 cagers as citizens**

By Jasmine W. Payo

**A**SI TAULAVA and seven other Philippine Basketball Association cagers will be called "Fil-shams" no more.

A special Department of Justice committee tasked to review the case of the eight players is to release anytime soon a recommendation recognizing the eight as Filipino citizens, according to a highly placed source at the department.

"We are convinced that the documents submitted to this department are enough to affirm the separate orders of the Bureau of Immigration recognizing (the eight players) as Filipino citizens," said the committee report, a copy of which was shown to the *Inquirer* by the source.

Ironically, the document also stressed that "this department does not have the competence to rule as to the truthfulness of the contents of the foreign documents," which the foreign-born cagers submitted to prove their Filipino lineage.

The committee will submit the report to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales within the next two weeks.

Talk 'N Text's Taulava, the PBA's most valuable player last season, as well as Davonn Harp, Jon Ordonio and Mick Pennisi of Red Bull, Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola, Andy Seigle and Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra, and Dorian Peña of San Miguel Beer are the league's only players whose citizenships have been questioned.

### Senate credibility questioned

Kenneth Duremdes, one of the homegrown players most vocal about reaching a definite conclusion to the case, said he still isn't aware of the report.

"But if it's true, it's like saying our Senate has no credibility. It's like saying (former Senators) John Osmeña and Robert Barbers have no credibility," said Duremdes.

"We'll see what happens and then take it from there."

The committee reportedly based its decision on documents—mostly affidavits—submitted by the cagers. The panel apparently ignored the findings of the Senate Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports last year.

The Senate committee, chaired by Barbers, who had sent emissaries to investigate the cagers' supposed roots, recommended the summary deportation of the players.

The Barbers committee said the documents provided by the cagers were fake, except those of Seigle. The Ginebra forward failed to elect for Filipino citizenship when he reached legal age.

"The foreign documents submitted are authenticated in accordance with our administrative requirement," the report stated.

It stated, however, that the Justice department is not tasked to prove the veracity of the documents and affidavits submitted by the eight players.

### Beyond DOJ jurisdiction

"It is beyond the jurisdiction and competence of this department to make a finding or declaration that the documents secured from the National Statistics Office (NSO) and the respective local civil registrar are fakes."

The report added, "The alleged falsity of the documents submitted... (is the) sole responsibility of the local civil registrars concerned."

Any verification, it said, "must be done in a quasi-judicial or judicial proceedings upon proper complaint filed by an aggrieved party and where the parties are given the chance or opportunity to rebut the allegation."

Taulava claims his mother is a Filipino citizen. However, an unimpeachable Justice department source noted that her citizenship "was never es-

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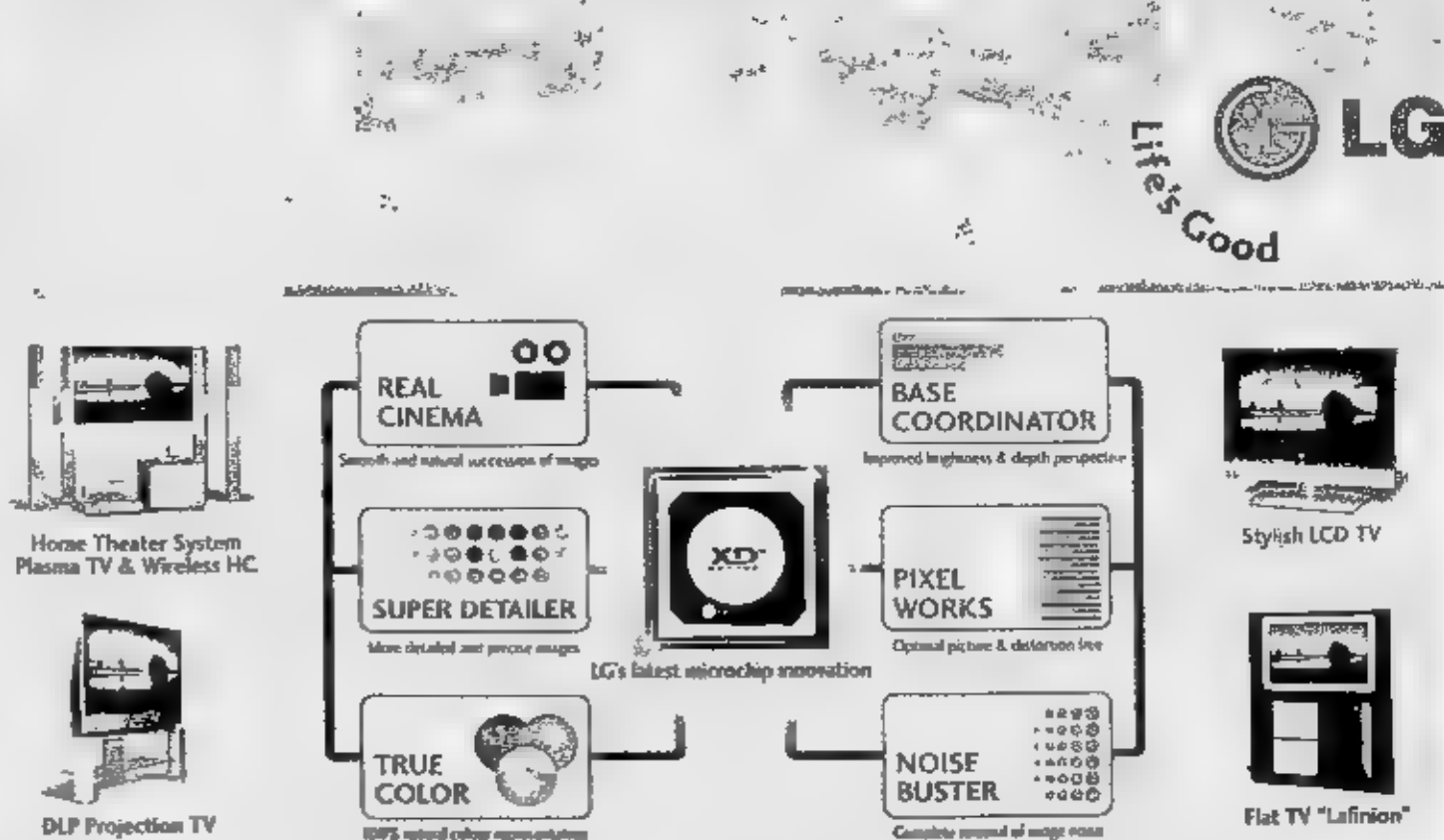
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# Ferriols keys big Express victory over Barakos

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)  
4 p.m.—Purefoods vs Coca-Cola  
6:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Sta. Lucia

By Musong R. Castillo

JOE LIPA just finished fighting a losing fight in Iran.

After the first week of the Gran Matarador PBA Philippine Cup, he's at least got something pleasant to come home to.

A FedEx crew he left to assistant Jojo Villa upset pre-tournament favorite Red Bull last night, 102-95, a fortune Lipa never had the pleasure of experiencing with a Philippine team in the Asian Young Men's tilt.

John Ferriols scored 21 points and four other Express clipped in with 11 or better as FedEx showed complete mastery of the Thunder and spoiled Verge Meneses' debut in a Red Bull in form.

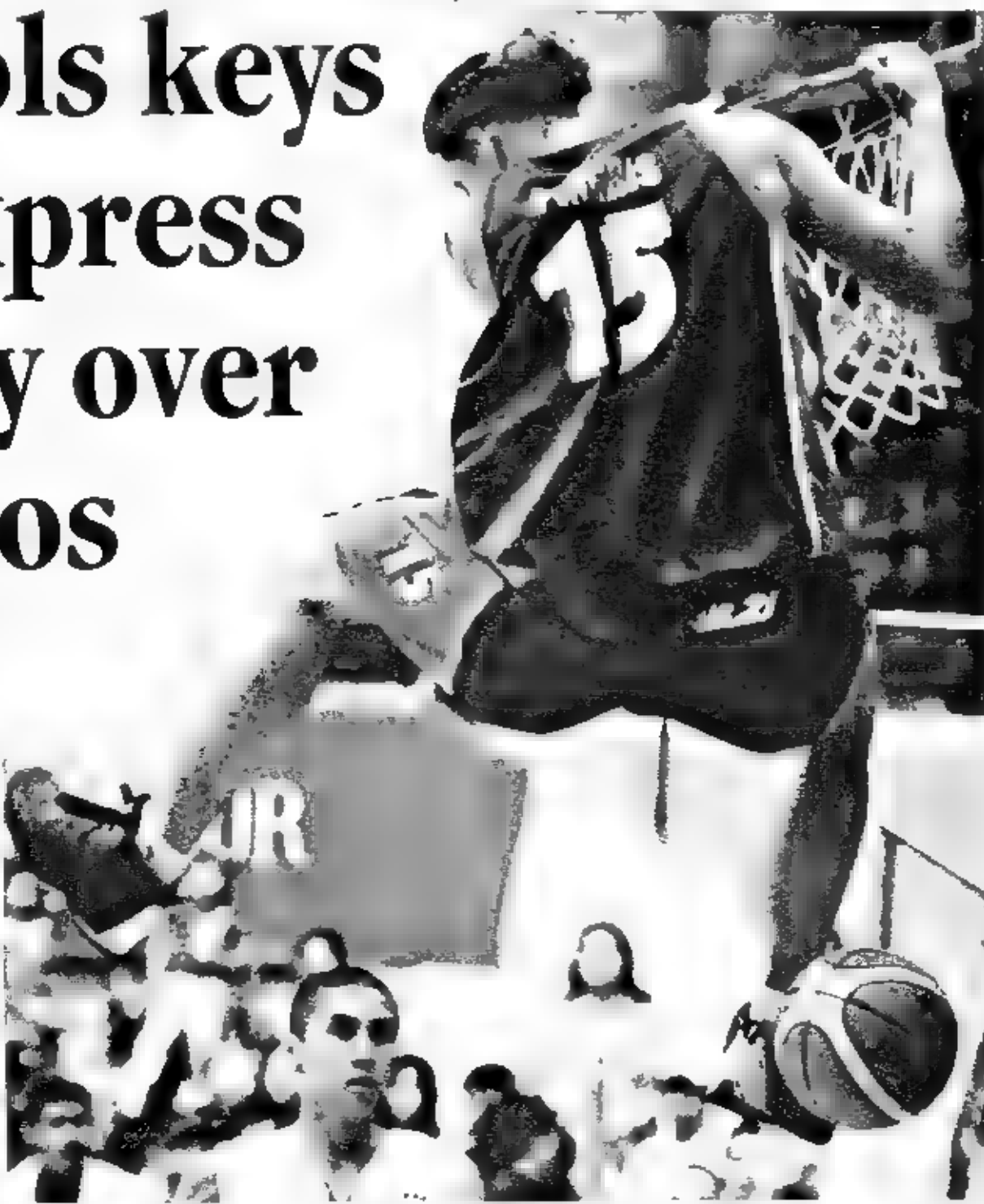
And Villa made sure that all credit went to his mentor, even if Lipa told him before leaving to do whatever he pleased.

"He (Lipa) told me to do what I wanted to do with the team," Villa said. "But I did only what the principles of coach Lipa has taught us in the past. It was all about his coaching and preparations out there."

Lipa is set to plane in together with the winless Philippine Team today or tomorrow, according to Villa.

FedEx established control with a late burst in the second period and the Express found themselves sitting on a 61-41 bubble they collectively preserved for a 1-0 card like the Coca-Cola and Purefoods.

Omariz Rodriguez, dangled as a trade bait without takers in the off-season, scored 11 of his 15 points in the second



MARC Pingris of FedEx caps the Express' winning game against Red Bull with a dunk.

ERNE U. SARMIENTO

period. He had four of his first half total in a 14-4 run to round out that quarter.

The closest the Thunder got to was seven after that, when Meneses came back into the fray to score five straight points for 85-92 with still 5:09 to play.

But like what characterized Red Bulls' poor offense in the first half, the team could not buy a bucket for the next 2:40 or so.

A three-point play by Homer Se off Junthy Valenzuela and two freethrows by Ren

Rinualdo put the outcome beyond doubt. Talk 'N Text streaked to the solo lead later in the night, getting 22 points from Willie Miller and 21 from Asi Taulava in a 94-86 decision of Alaska.

The scores:  
First Game  
FEDEx 102—Ferriols 21, Rodriguez 15, Pingris 14, Arboleda 12, Se 11, Yap 8, De Ocampo 7, Gonzales 6.

RED BULL BARAKO 95—Harp 26, Valenzuela 16,

Meneses 15, Pernissi 10, Villanueva 9, Bagulo 8, Tugade 4, Lopez 3, Agapito 2, Robinson 0.

Quarters: 28-21, 61-41, 78-71, 102-95.

Second Game  
TALK 'N TEXT 94—Miller 22, Taulava 21, Tolon 18,

Alapag 13, Pablo 8, De Ocampo 8, Camaso 2, Belano 2, Ravera 0.

ALASKA 86—Cortez 22, Peak 15, Cablay 13, Arigo 11, Thross 10, Alado 8, Hawkins 4, Tejeda 2, Fahn 0.

Quarters: 27-20, 47-46, 72-70, 94-86.

## Torre: RP well poised for Top 10 finish

LONGTIME Board 1 player Eugene Torre believes the Philippines is well poised to barge into the Top 10 of the World Chess Olympiad following maveness Grandmaster Joey Antonio's "unconditional" pledge to play for the country.

Torre, Asia's first GM, earlier agreed to give way to Antonio for Board 1 duties in the Olympiad slated Oct. 14 to 30 in Majorca, Spain.

Torre also said he is ready to play on Board 3, behind Antonio and GM-elect Mark Paragua—the country's hottest and highest-ranked player—to strengthen the country's bid in the biennial meet.

All is well on the local chess scene, at least for now, after Antonio agreed to temporarily set aside his complaints against certain officials of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) in the interest of the country's participation in the Olympiad.

Yesterday, NCFP president Go Teng Kok said Antonio would no longer oppose the appointment of secretary general Samuel Esmao as non-playing team captain until after the team's return from the tournament.

"I had a long talk with Joey yesterday and I told him to set aside his problem with the NCFP leadership until after the Olympiad," Go told the Scoop sa Kamayan



NCFP president Go Teng Kok receives a check for P1 million from Tessa Mangahas, executive director of the First Gentleman Foundation for Sports, for the participation of Filipino prodigies in the 2004 World Youth Chess Championships on Nov. 3-14 in Crete, Greece. The check was presented during the awarding ceremonies of the recent National Chess Grand Finals in Tagaytay. Looking on are directors of the NCFP.

weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant on Padre Faura Street in Manila.

"I told him not to put me in the spot if he has anything against certain officials, because I am the NCFP president. I will fix the matter," said Go in Filipino. "He even pledged his full support to the NCFP."

Torre, who also appeared at the session

along with fellow players Darwin Laylo, the newly crowned national champion, International Master Jayson Gonzales, women's champ Joy Lomibao and Aices Salvador, said the development augurs well for the country's campaign in the men's and women's competitions.

"That makes our teams more solid be-

cause now all we have to think is how to play well in our bid for a better finish in both the men's and women's competitions," said Torre.

"Lalong lumakas ang team at sa tingin ko (The team got even stronger and I think) we can duplicate, if not surpass, our best finish in the Olympiad," said Torre.

The men's team wound up a fighting seventh in the Olympiad's edition in Thessaloniki, Greece, in 1988. The women's side made it to the Top 20 in 1998.

Go, who also heads the track and field association, faces yet another problem, however.

Three days before the nationals' scheduled departure on Tuesday, members of the delegation have yet to obtain their visas.

The Spanish Embassy has set interviews with the nationals on Monday.

Go has advanced P1.6 million from his account to pay for the players' visa fees and allowances.

The Philippine Sports Commission has given the NCFP P600,000 to partly defray the delegation's expenses.

Go said GM-elect Mark Paragua, fresh off two victories in tournaments in Ukraine, will link up with the rest of the team in Spain.

## Philsoc may ask DepEd to call off classes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee plans to urge the Department of Education to suspend classes for the duration of the SEA Games here next year to help ensure the biennial meet's success.

Philsoc chair Roberto Pagdanganan said they have prepared a list of plans, including the participation of students as volunteers, to make sure that attention is focused on the Games.

Pagdanganan and Philippine Olympic Committee president Ceiso Dayrit and the rest of the Philsoc will finalize plans today before meeting with officials of the 10 other SEAG member-nations on Monday and Tuesday here.

### Change of SEAG schedule

Among Pagdanganan and Dayrit's proposals is the change of SEAG schedule from Nov. 20-30 to Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 next year.

The suspension of classes will also allow students to watch the Games in venues in Metro Manila, Subic City, Cebu City and Bacolod City, Pagdanganan said.

The Philsoc will present the same plans to the SEAG Federation during the two-day meeting.

Pagdanganan said the changes in the schedule and duration of the Games will mean substantial savings for both the organizers and the participating countries.

### Rooting for RP athletes

These will also give local sports enthusiasts a chance to troop to the venues and root for the country's athletes since the proposed schedule will include two weekends as well as the Nov. 30 National Heroes' Day.

"It is important to show our guests that in the greater interest of the nation, our people can stand united and supportive of each other," said Pagdanganan.

## Taulava, et al. to be declared Pinoys

From page A21

established by direct documentary evidence."

Only "self-serving documents," the source added, were submitted such as an NSO copy of the delayed registration of the Certificate of Live Birth of his mother, an affidavit that his mother was from Samar and an affidavit that she is a Filipino citizen at the time of his birth.

Hatfield, Crisano, Ordonio and Peña also claim that one of their parents is a Filipino, but the source again noted that "no document was submitted to establish their Filipino citizenship."

In June, the DOJ declared Ordonio a Filipino citizen but Gonzales said his case would be reviewed again.

Harp and Pernissi's citizenship were substantiated by local documents, but according to the source, "question on the authenticity of the Certificates of Live Birth submitted by both players had been raised since they were not issued by the NSO."

Seigle has proven his Filipino lineage but "the issue is whether he elected Filipino citizenship on time after he has reached the age of majority."

He elected Philippine citizenship at 26 years old. His younger brother Danny, however, qualified as a legitimate Filipino-American under the constitution.

## Boxing's suckers, swindlers

UNLESS the papers lied, Manny Pacquiao is back. He came home quietly on Tuesday from Los Angeles on board a PAL jet—without the fanfare usually accorded him.

No streamers, nor a throng, greeted him at the Nara and that's because he was not coming home this time a triumphant hero. This time, he came home minus a conquest, only with a wounded pride.

This time, he came home minus a knockout win, or a dubious draw verdict, only with a tale of woe from the land of milk and honey.

This time, he came home nearly a broken man, left practically to cajole himself over a sad fate reserved only for lost souls like Rando Navarette.

Even his closest friends or supporters weren't around to fetch him at the airport. Only his wife, Jinkee, and a handful of relatives came to meet him. The couple then slipped out of public view, retreating to what is generally consid-

ered their love nest somewhere in Manila. That was, perhaps, the only bright note in the boxer's homecoming.

But perhaps in their solitude—OK, tight embrace—they must have tried reconstructing what went wrong along the way.

Manager bungled his job? Promoter made a jerk out of himself? Matchmaker sold him down the drain?

Pacquiao left Manila for America on Sept. 8, brimming with confidence he could land a megabuck fight either against Marco Antonio Barrera or Juan Manuel Marquez. Instead, he got by-passed, tossed around like Caesar's Salad—a clear victim of the politics of the red district of sports that is boxing.

Generally speaking, Pacquiao is world celebrity stuff since he had already beaten some of the best in the business—on the world stage at that.

Who could question his 11th-round destruction of Barrera, the Mexican

### SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



icon, in November in Texas?

And then that split draw with Marquez in May, a decision roundly booed by the experts who chorused that Pacquiao was robbed of victory?

For Filipino boxers to win in America, they must knock out their foes or become perennial victims of hometown decisions.

I've known for years how wheeler-dealers in this sport have succeeded in duping people.

In this business, the name of the game is hustling. Most of the time, if not all of the time, double-crossers end up laughing their way to the bank.

In this business, the gib of tongue succeeds all the time.

In this business, the gullible ends up holding the empty bag most of the time. If you want to see a sea of suckers in sports, come to boxing.

Over here, they come in droves, not by the hour but by the minute.

Over here, they transform well-meaning fellas into instant liars faster than the oil companies can raise their fuel prices.

If you ever believe one item about this fight or that fight happening without the benefit of a contract to such effect signed by parties to the fight, you are a candidate for instant membership to AA. AA here meaning Amen Anonymous: You always say amen to everything you hear, you read about boxing.

I can cite you stones about a Pacquiao fight supposedly set for this date or that date just weeks after the Pacquiao-Marquez bout. Believe me, not

one of them was true. And yet, the way they were written, the way the papers presented them to the public, you were given the impression that all's well—so far as Pacquiao's next fight in America was concerned. Turns out everything was mere blah-blah.

The funny thing was, some of the most jaded in the sweet science had been had, too.

And let's not look too far. Wasn't Gerry Peñalosa, as battle-scarred as Nene Pinatene himself, also a victim only recently of the game's notorious 1-2-3 gays?

Boxing's the undisputed sanctuary of swindlers Judas Iscariot might as well be the sport's chairman emeritus.

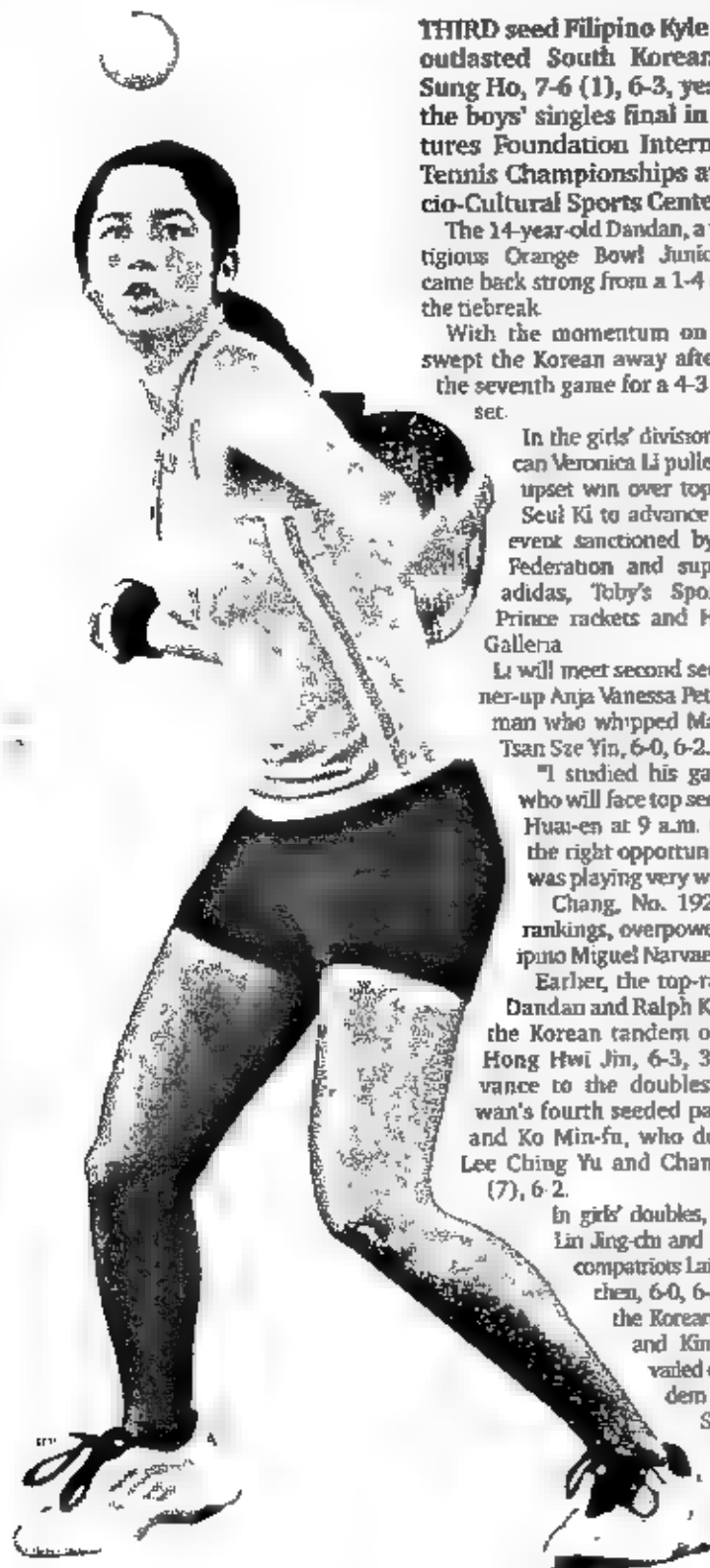
So, unless we see Pacquiao up in the ring, gloves on, Darrington socks on or whatever, there will never be a fight to speak of for the world's people's champion.

You disagree and I will agree to disagree.



# Dandan tops Korean, gains final

Fil-German Peter also through



**THIRD** seed Filipino Kyle Joshua Dandan outlasted South Korean qualifier Kim Sung Ho, 7-6 (1), 6-3, yesterday to reach the boys' singles final in the Phinma-Futures Foundation International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Yñares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

The 14-year-old Dandan, a veteran of the prestigious Orange Bowl Junior Championships, came back strong from a 1-4 deficit to dominate the tiebreak.

With the momentum on his side, Dandan swept the Korean away after breaking him in the seventh game for a 4-3 lead in the second set.

In the girls' division, third seed American Veronica Li pulled off a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 upset win over top seed Korean Chin Seul Ki to advance to the final of this event sanctioned by the Asian Tennis Federation and supported by Unilab, adidas, Toby's Sports, Nassau balls, Prince rackets and Holiday Inn Manila Galleria.

Li will meet second seed and first leg runner-up Anja Vanessa Peter, the Filipino-German who whipped Malaysian giant-killer Tsan Sze Yin, 6-0, 6-2.

"I studied his game," said Dandan, who will face top seed Taiwanese Chang Hui-en at 9 a.m. today. "I waited for the right opportunity to attack, as Kim was playing very well."

Chang, No. 192 in the ITF Junior rankings, overpowered fourth seed Filipino Miguel Narvaez, 6-3, 6-0.

Earlier, the top-ranked local pair of Dandan and Ralph Kevin Barte survived the Korean tandem of Mun Ju Hae and Hong Hwi Jin, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (2), to advance to the doubles final against Taiwan's fourth seeded pair of Lien Chua-chu and Ko Min-fu, who downed compatriots Lee Ching Yu and Chang Chien Yuan, 7-6 (7), 6-2.

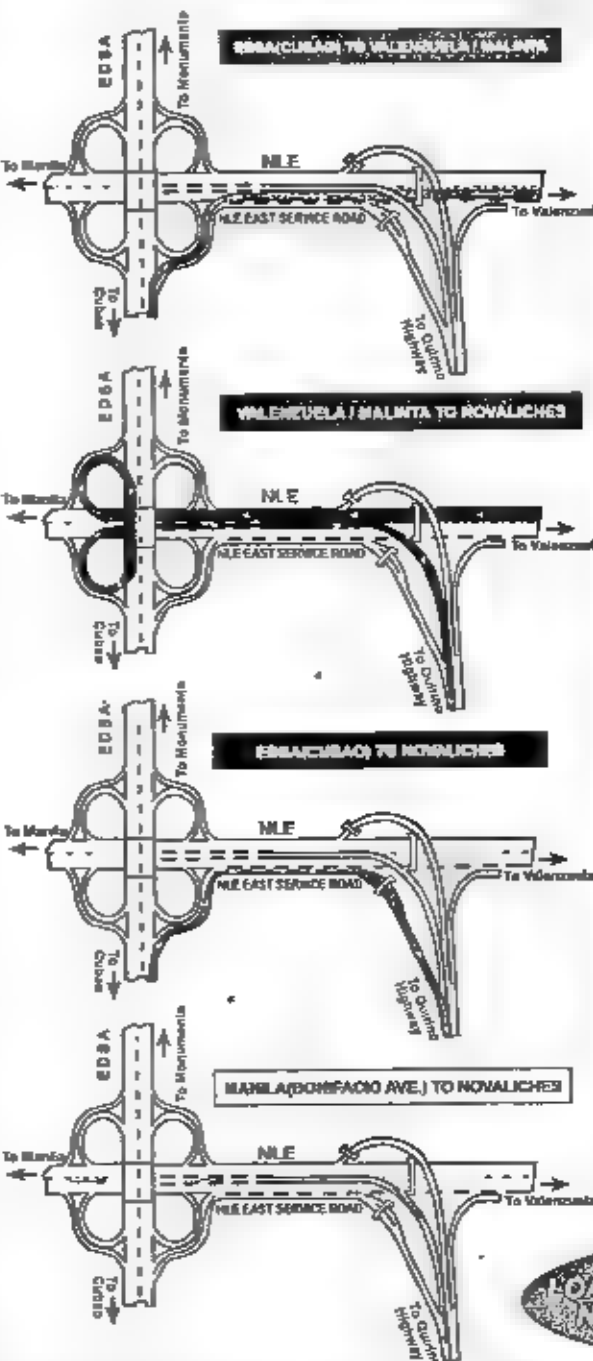
In girls' doubles, top seeds Taiwanese Lin Jing-chi and Hsu Tzu-chien routed compatriots Lai Wen-tzu and Tsai Yu-chien, 6-0, 6-2, to advance against the Korean pair of Chun Seul Ki and Kim Ju Eun, who prevailed over the Japanese tandem of Ayumi Okuma and Shuko Otake, 6-2, 6-2.

**ANJA VANESSA** Peter returns to Malaysian Tsan Sze Yin en route to a 6-0, 6-2 win.



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## 29ers, Taguig cagers open best-of-3 clash

THE BATANGAS 29ers and Forward Taguig renew their rivalry today as they start their best-of-three Northern division semifinal series in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national championship at the C.P. Ting gym.

The two teams, which finished the eliminations at 7-7 and split their two head-to-head matches, clash at 6 p.m.

For winning more divisional games, Taguig clinched the No. 2 spot in the North division of the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Sulpicio Lines, Coozees Plaza Hotel, Shape-Up Fitness Center, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercar, Skygo Motorcycles, Accel and Molten.

The 29ers earned a shot at Taguig for the right to challenge Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna Spring in the North finals by downing the Baguio Cardinals of UB president Des

Bautista, 99-95, in a wildcard match.

The 29ers of Malvar Mayor Tita Reyes, Rep. Oscar Gozos and businessman Bernie Manahan beat Taguig, 88-80, early in the season but Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig cagers bounced back with a 78-62 rout toward the end of the eliminations.

"We have to steal one game from them in their homecourt. Otherwise, we'll be hard-pressed to win two in a row," said Batangas coach Elen "Yong" Garcia.

"We're pretty even," said Taguig mentor Danny Gaviera. "The series will most likely be decided through breaks of the games."

Batangas will bank on Sonny Manuac, Lito Saygo, Dennis Rodriguez, Gilbert Neo, Ariel de Castro and Rodel Mallari while Taguig will pin its hopes on Ogie Gurnatay, Jimmy Robillos, Leo Vilat, Ricky Ricafrente and ex-Arevalo Blue Eagles Andrew Cruz and Chris Quimpo.

## Double-barreled kart title bid makes Matteo a marked man

**FRONT-RUNNING** Matteo Guidicelli eyes two championship titles today when the penultimate leg of the 2004 PCSO Shell Superkarting series kicks off at the Boom na Boom Kart Track at the CCP Complex.

Guidicelli, of the Cebu Racing Group is heavily favored to dominate the Open and Formula Rotax Juniors titles again in this series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

The challenging 650-meter kart track next to Pier One and Manna restaurants at the Boom na Boom Complex can make or break the Filipino-Italian's bid for the rare feat, however.

The Cebu-based Guidicelli, who is backed by Penshoppe, Oakley and CRG Karts, leads the overall race for the Open class and the Karter of the Year plums with 342 points.

Just a point behind him is Allan Uy of Team Alessandra-PCR Racing who is again making a strong bid for the Karter of the Year award after losing the coveted crown to Pepon Marave three years ago.

Behind Guidicelli and Uy are Indy Villalon



**GUIDICELLI**

Stockinger, in the series sponsored by the Philippines Shell Petroleum Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through Hon. Rosario Uriarte, Comglasco Aguila Glass, Bridgestone, Aviva Insurance, Eastway Motorcycle Racing and Denso Iridium Power.

Out to stop Guidicelli from taking the Rotax Juniors crown are Mark Bungarner (306 points), Marty Aguilar of Bosch Intelco (195), Brandon Angel (101) and teammate Paco Rodriguez (98).

of Birel-Fila, who is third overall with 254 points, defending champion Michelle Bungarner (246), Marlon Stockinger of Birel-Fila (190) and Mark Bungarner (110).

Guidicelli is way ahead in the Formula Rotax Juniors with 399 points, 35 in front of closest rival

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## Sosa slapped \$87,000 fine for early exit

CHICAGO, Illinois—The Chicago Cubs have fined their star right fielder Sammy Sosa following his early departure from Sunday's regular season finale against the Atlanta Braves.

Sosa, who arrived at Wrigley Field around an hour before Sunday's game time and left 15 minutes after the game started, was fined a full day's salary of \$87,400 for his departure shortly after the first pitch.

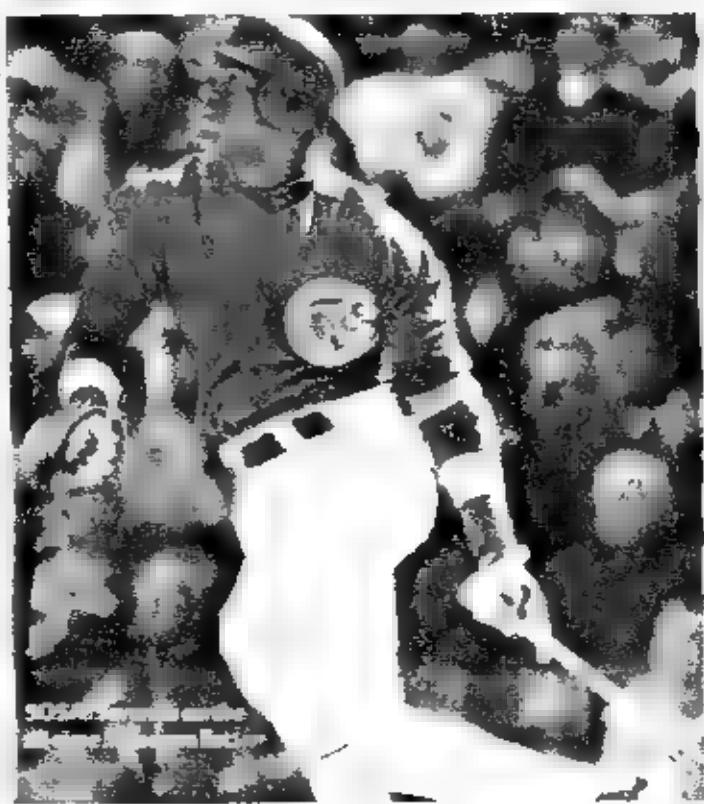
Sosa at first claimed he stuck

around until the seventh but video tape footage proved afterwards that was not the case.

Sosa's stunt comes in the wake of a disappointing season in which he was paid \$16.875 million and hit just .253 with 35 homers and 80 RBIs.

The 35-year-old Sosa, who has hit out at his treatment by fans and some sections of the media this season, has one year left on his contract with a club option for \$18 million in 2006.

AFP



## Braves tam Cards blas

ATLANTA, Georgia—Rafael Furcal's two-out walk off home run in the 11th inning lifted Atlanta Braves to a 4-2 win over Houston and evened their National League Division Series at 1-1.

Two days ago the Braves' shortstop was sentenced to three weeks in jail for a second drunk driving charge in the last four years.

As part of his agreement, he is under home confinement for the rest of the playoffs.

Furcal, 26, was in the starting lineup for Atlanta's loss in Game One and came through with the biggest hit of Game Two.

"I got to the bat, put a lot of concentration," Furcal said. "I thought about contact. I tried to put the ball in play. I looked for something slow inside, then

made good contact."

In the other National League game, five relievers combined on 5 2/3 scoreless innings as St. Louis registered an 8-3 triumph over Los Angeles and seized a two games to none lead in the series.

Houston reliever Dan Miceli (0-1) tried to sneak a pitch past Furcal, who quickly turned on it and golfed it into the right field stands for a two-run homer.

"It was a split-finger fastball," Miceli said.

Antonio Alfonseca (1-0) got the win with a hitless 11th inning.

Both clubs leaned on their closers as Brad Lidge tossed 2 2/3 scoreless innings. Atlanta's John Smoltz went three hitless frames.

Roy Oswalt, the Astros starter, allowed a run and eight hits in 6 1/3 innings. He struck out four in his first career playoff start.

## Schumi fastest in practice

SUZUKA, Japan—Ferrari's Michael Schumacher was quickest in the wet in both of Friday's practice sessions for the typhoon threatened Japanese Grand Prix.

Race organizers and Formula One officials were due to meet later to decide whether to postpone Saturday's qualifying at Suzuka to Sunday morning after two rain-soaked practice runs.

The penultimate race of 2004 could be disrupted by typhoon

"Ma-on" which is forecast to hit central Japan this weekend. The storm system is carrying winds of up to 180kph near its center.



SCHUMACHER

Schumacher seemed oblivious, the seven-time world champion clocking a quickest lap time of one minute 45.388 seconds in torrential rain in the afternoon session.

However, his time was almost 14 seconds slower than his Brazilian teammate Rubens Barrichello's pole-setting pace at Suzuka last year.

Schumacher, who clinched the championship in August, survived a spin as the poor weather made the going treacherous.

Sauber's Giancarlo Fisichella was second fastest in both sessions, the Italian lapping

within a second of Schumacher.

"If tomorrow's weather is like it was in the last 15 minutes today we can't drive," said Fisichella. "The conditions were very tricky for the drivers." Barrichello was third quickest in the morning while McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen improved from sixth in the first session to third as the rain got heavier and visibility deteriorated.

Several drivers skidded off during the afternoon, Fisichella spinning onto the gravel on the approach to the chicane with Jordan's Timo Glock and Minardi's Zsolt Baumgartner also losing control.

Japan's Takuma Sato disappointed home fans by stopping after one lap in the morning but bounced back to finish eighth quickest for BAR in the second session.

Reuters

## Midland joins Formula One

SUZUKA, Japan—A new Formula One team, Midland F1, will make its debut in 2006, a Russian backed financial corporation announced on Friday.

The privately owned Midland Group, registered in Guernsey but with extensive business links in Russia and the former Soviet Union, said their cars would be built by Italian manufacturer Dallara.

The team, to be based somewhere near London, has yet to decide on engines or drivers.

"Of course the team will have a Russian flavor and in time we hope to bring a Russian driver into Formula One," said Midland chair Alex Shnaider, a naturalized Canadian citizen born in St Petersburg, in a statement.

"Midland is deeply rooted in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States and we are certain that, via Formula One, mutually beneficial relationships and businesses can be created as most international companies recognize that they must enter these markets." "Our research into coverage of different sports showed that only three events met our criteria for international ex-

### Japanese GP live viewing

THE MILD Seven F1 Club will be hosting a live viewing party of the Japanese GP at Comfort Zone Bar beside the Speedzone Circuit at The Fort tomorrow, 12:30 p.m.

Various Mild seven Renault F1 Team merchandise will be at stake as prizes during numerous games that will be played throughout the race.

The event is open to persons 18 years old and above only.

plotation: The Olympic Games, World Cup Soccer and Formula One," added the 36-year-old.

"As the two others are quadrennial Formula One was the natural fit." Founded in 1994, Midland employ more than 50,000 people globally.

Their biggest recent project is a luxury hotel and residential complex in the business district of Toronto in association with the Trump Organization.

Despite teams such as Ford-owned Jaguar, Jordan and Minardi facing uncertain futures, and engine manufacturer Cosworth up for sale, Shnaider said the Midland Group were confident of meeting Formula One's enormous costs.

"We understand that basic survival in Formula One requires a budget of around \$100 million per annum and we are prepared for that," he said.

"Midland's involvement is market-driven. And so is the determination to build a team from scratch as opposed to buying an existing one. Midland Group is an investment company, and by creating a new team we are creating value." "Midland is prepared to fund the development of the team entirely, but our unique position will help us attract sponsors," said Shnaider.

Dallara was established in 1972 and entered Formula One with the Ford-powered Scuderia Italia team in 1988, staying until 1992.



ATLANTA Braves' Wilson Betemit is tagged out at home by Houston Astros catcher during Game 2 of the National League Division Series at Turner Field.

## Phelps returns triumphant; Sandeno triple-gold winner

INDIANAPOLIS—Michael Phelps made a winning return to the pool at the world short course championships on Thursday, capturing the 200-meter freestyle title and the first of a possible six gold medals.

But while the charismatic Phelps grabbed the spotlight, it was teammate Kaitlin Sandeno who produced the performance of the evening.

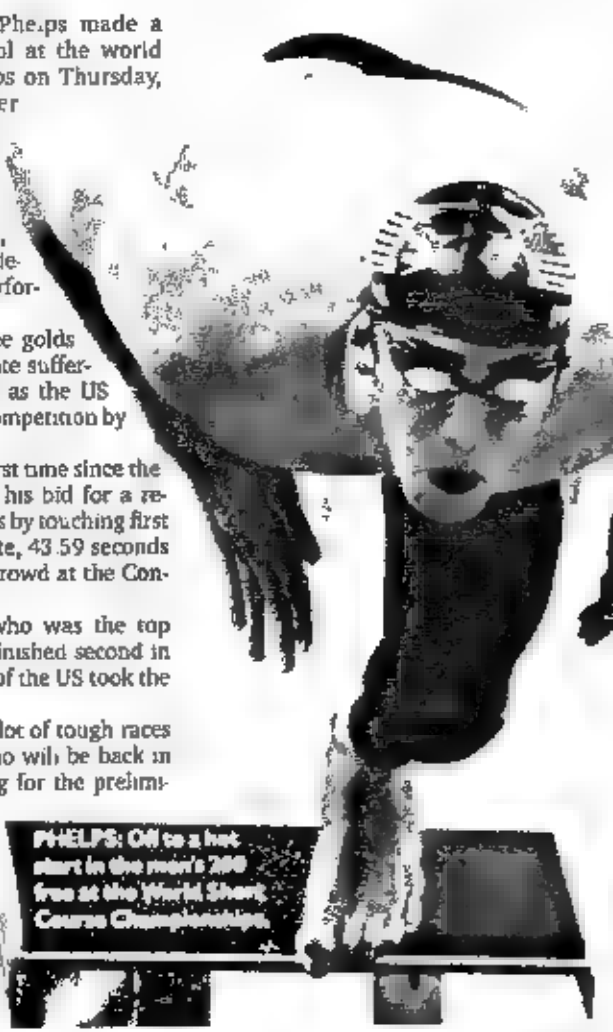
Sandeno stormed to three golds in the women's event, despite suffering from slight concussion, as the US dominated the first day of competition by winning all five finals.

Back in the pool for the first time since the Olympics, Phelps launched his bid for a repeat of his six golds in Athens by touching first in the 200 free in one minute, 43.59 seconds to the delight of the large crowd at the Consco Field House.

Canada's Richard Say, who was the top qualifier ahead of Phelps, finished second in 1:44.39 while Ryan Lochte of the US took the bronze in 1:44.97.

"There are going to be a lot of tough races this week," said Phelps, who will be back in the pool on Friday morning for the preliminary heats of the 400 individual medley. "I'm glad to have one under my belt."

"I'm tired," the 19-year-old American told reporters. "I was really hurting pretty bad over the final 75 meters. I was defi-



PHELPS: Off to a hot start in the men's 200 free at the World Short Course Championships.

nately in pain.

"My body has been beaten up pretty good in the last three months." Distracted by sponsor commitments, endorsements and promotional appearances since his return from Athens six weeks ago, Phelps led from the gun but could never power clear of Say, who owns the fifth fastest time ever in the event.

With Phelps never seriously threatened, neither was the world record of 1:41.10 held by his Australian rival Ian Thorpe, who is not competing here.

Phelps said "This is my first short course gold medal so I guess it's pretty special. This is nothing to put down. I'm excited to be here and excited to win my first medal in front of the home crowd." Sandeno, a triple Olympic medalist in Athens, led a US sweep of the top two places in the 200 butterfly and 400 individual medley before capping an excellent night by swimming the anchor leg for the triumphant 4x200 freestyle relay team.

It was a spectacular and gutsy performance by the 21-year-old American, who was nearly forced out of competition when she was struck in the face by a kickboard during morning training.

"I had a slight accident this morning and for a while didn't think I would swim," said Sandeno. "I'm excited I did so well because I'm not in very good shape."

"Michael has nothing on me but he still has quite an agenda himself. I just wanted to park mine into one day."

Reuters

## Kidd skipping Nets

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Jason Kidd is refusing to attend night sessions during the New Jersey Nets' two-a-day practices at training camp, and he doesn't care if the team fines him for it.

"They want me to be here—they have every right—but my best thing is to try to get healthy, rehab and push forward. That's my stance," said Kidd, who had knee surgery over the summer and is at least three weeks away from practicing. "Me sitting here for three hours is not helping me rehab."

Kidd ended a long public silence and made his displeasure with the Nets clear this week after an offseason that included the cost-cutting trades of Kenyon Martin and Kenny Kirtles. Kidd and Alonzo Mourning said the Nets have no chance of winning a championship.

Coach Lawrence Frank would discuss Kidd's skipping night sessions, even to clarify whether Kidd's absences were excused or unexcused. Team president Rod Thorn did not return a telephone call seeking comment.

## Ellis, Bohn share top spot with 63s

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Danny Ellis and Jason Bohn fired rounds of 63 to lead after the first round of the four million dollar PGA Michelin Championship.

Ellis carded a bogey-free round on the TPC at The Canyons course. Ellis was second at the PGA Tour qualifying tournament in 2003 and he birdied four consecutive holes starting with the

par-5 fourth.

Bohn also played the Canyons course and recorded nine birdies en route to the first opening-round lead. The only stumble on his scorecard was a bogey on the sixth hole.

Scott Verpank, Harrison Frazar, Kent Jones, Steve Lowery and Billy Mayfair all are also tied for the lead after rounds of 8-under on par-72 courses.

AFP



SPORTS

# The Astros; t Dodgers

Mike Hampton nearly matched Oswalt. He surrendered two runs and four hits in 6 1/3 innings, striking out five and walking three.

"I think he feels just terrible, to be honest with you," Braves manager Bobby Cox said of Furcal's pending jail term.

"I talked to him, that we would be there for him all the time. Nobody likes to have their name in the paper like that, that's for sure."

"As much as we can, we want him to forget about it, concentrate on baseball and things will work out very good for him in the future," Furcal said baseball takes his mind off his legal woes.

"For me, when I'm coming to the ballpark, I open the door of my car, come and walk into the stadium."

"I forget about everything except the field, put a lot of concentration on the game, and forget everything every time I go to the field."

"Then after the game, when I go to my house, I think of all my problems."

After a travel day on Friday, the series resumes Saturday at Houston, where the Astros have won 18 straight games.

Houston sends Brandon Backe to the mound while Atlanta answers with righthander John Thomson.

The Cardinals have used the first two games of their National League Division Series with the Dodgers to show why they have the best depth in baseball.

In the series opener on Tuesday—also an 8-3 win—St. Louis blasted five home runs and got a solid outing from starter Woody Williams.

In game two, the Cardinals saw Jason Marquis last just 1 1/3 innings but received a strong effort from their bullpen and four RBIs from catcher Mike Matheny.



SUZUKI: Owns the most hits (262) in Major League history.

## Suzuki rejects gov't offer to make him national hero

TOKYO—Japanese baseball star Ichiro Suzuki, who last week broke a US major league record for hits in one season, has snubbed a government offer to decorate him as a national hero, a government spokesman said Friday.

It was the second time that 30-year-old Suzuki turned down the so-called People's Honor Award from the govern-

ment of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, a reputed baseball fan whose style is widely labelled as populist.

In 2001, the Seattle Mariners outfielder did the same thing after he became the American League's most valuable player in his first year in US Major League Baseball, saying he was too young for the award.

## Cebuana Lhuillier national five offers long-term solution

By Anthony Surtay, Contributor

AMID the negotiations being brokered by the Philippine Basketball Association and the Basketball Association of the Philippines for the formation of the national pool, RP coach Dong Vergere believes the current Cebuana Lhuillier squad presents a long-term solution to the country's overseas campaign.

"The PBA is our big brother. (But) eventually, we won't have to bother the PBA for the international arena. That is what we are working toward," said Vergere.

Vergere and the Cebuana Lhuillier national squad have been constantly training in the hope of bringing back glory to the country. The team, though, has been criticized by various quarters, especially after its disappointing bottom finish in the recent Jones Cup in Taiwan.

"We used the Jones Cup as experience for the players to get international exposure," Vergere explained. "Remember it took the NOC (Northern Consolidated Cement squad of Ron Jacobs) team eight years before becoming the force we now know. Look, after Allan Caidic we have not developed another great shooter. We have to put in a definite program."

The need for a definite program comes at the heels of aggressive moves by other countries to get better.

Hong Kong is getting players from the mainland. Singapore is following this practice by bringing in Chinese athletes for basketball and bad-



VERGERE

minton.

Plus, other countries are starting to go global.

"Look at China in the recent Olympics," Vergere states, "they hired NBA veteran coach Del Harris to coach the squad. Korea and Japan are also allowing themselves to be influenced by Europe and the US."

Vergere said he will continue training the Cebuana Lhuillier squad in case there is a need to represent the country in the future.

"These players we have," he said, "are players of the future, not now. That is why the agreement of the PBA and the BAP is very important. We just want to avoid forming a team at the last moment."

Vergere said playing in the national team should not get in the way of the players' dreams of earning a living through playing.

"The national players can play in the PBL, any league, even the PBA."



Catcher Raul Chavez on a fly ball hit by Braves' Andruw Jones in the eighth at Atlanta, Thursday.

## s' night practices

Kidd said the team had not informed him or his agent that he would be fined.

Under the collective bargaining agreement, players can be penalized \$2,500 for each of the first two practices they miss and \$5,000 for each subsequent absence.

The Nets held only one practice on Thursday, but another two-a-day was scheduled for Friday—and Kidd was adamant he wouldn't attend the night session. New Jersey is holding training camp at its regular practice facility, and

most Nets players are staying at their own homes.

Kidd said he is rehabilitating his knee seven days a week and plans to consult with his doctors again in three weeks to determine whether he'll be cleared for more strenuous activity.

"If they want to fine me for not sitting here for three hours to watch practice, they're the boss and I'm the employee," Kidd said. "I'm going to stay with my stand and don't come as night. I've already expressed that it's because I'm rehabbing."

## Sharapova gains Japan Open final

TOKYO—Defending champion Maria Sharapova cruised into the Japan Open tennis women's singles final on Friday while world number three Lleyton Hewitt booked his place in the men's semis.

However, Thai star Paradorn Sitchaporn failed to improve on his dismal record against Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic, crashing out, 6-4, 6-4, in their quarterfinal.

Sharapova, the 17-year-old Wimbledon champion from Russia who is defending a title for the first time, was broken in the first game by Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn but recovered to win, 6-2, 6-2.

"I did have a slow start. It's quite difficult when you don't have a proper warm-up (because of the rain)," said Sharapova.

"She (Tamarine) broke my serve right away. I made two double faults. I picked it up, I served a lot better,

and I returned very well today. I think that was the key." Sharapova will face Mashona Washington in Saturday's final after the American beat Czech seventh seed Klara Koukalova, 3-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Tamarine's defeat added to a disappointing day for Thailand as Paradorn fell to Novak, against whom he has now won only one set in three

rounds. Paradorn said he was tired after rain delays forced him to play both his second and third round matches on Thursday.

"There's nothing I can do about the weather and he (Novak) also played two matches yesterday so we were even," said Paradorn. "But I think I played well. He was just playing better." Paradorn, the top-ranked Asian player, never recovered after letting slip two break points in the fourth game of the first set.

## Mauresmo takes first match as No. 1

FILDERSTADT, Germany—Amelie Mauresmo overcame a slow start to win her first match as the world's top-ranked player, beating Patty Schnyder of Switzerland, 7-5, 6-4, at the Porsche Grand Prix on Thursday.

She was joined in the quarterfinals by

French Open champion Anastasia Myskina and US Open winner Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Mauresmo became the first French player, man or woman, to claim the top ranking on Sept. 13.

"I'm very proud—I dreamed of this as a kid," Mauresmo said. "I'm enjoying this phase

of my life like never before."

She struggled initially with Schnyder's serve and trailed 5-2 before coming back into the match. She needed five match points before winning.

Mauresmo could still lose her top ranking to Lindsay Davenport with a poor finish.



SHARAPOVA returns a shot to Tanasugarn during their semifinal match.



GRACE Park hits out of the bunker on the 16th hole at the Asahi Ryokuen International Championship.

## Park shares lead in Asahi golf

NORTH AUGUSTA, South Carolina—South Korea's Grace Park carded a six-under-par 66 on Thursday and holds a share of the lead after the first round of the \$1M LPGA Asahi International Championship.

"Obviously, I'm very happy with today's round," Park said.

"I played really well. I made a couple of mental errors that cost me a few strokes but then came back strong."

Park is seeking her first two-win season on the tour. Since turning pro five years ago, Park never

has captured multiple titles in the same season, winning once each year since 2000.

In March, the 25-year-old Park captured the Kraft Nabisco Championship for her fourth career major victory.

On Thursday Park posted nine birdies to forge a tie for first with Kim Saki and Italy's Cavallari. She collected consecutive birdies on Nos. 2-3 and 5-6 before recording four straight beginning at No. 12.

Park has finished in the top 10 seven times in 17 events since her March win.

"Nos. 9 and 10, I had a pitching wedge and just wanted to hit a little soft shot and just try to... just didn't focus," Park said. "They were easy shots and I just tried to just hit it there instead of trying to hit it close. Whatever, I missed out."

"I finished with the birdie, so I'm pleased."

Saki birdied Nos. 5-6 and 11-12 before registering an eagle on the par-5 16th.

"In the last couple of weeks, I haven't been sleeping that well," Saki said. "But the last couple of nights, I have slept well and I showed up to the golf course feeling good."



## RP-Pagcor riders bag 3rd in Indonesia

THE RP-PAGCOR Casino Filipino Trade Team capped its stint in the Dji Sam Soe Tour of Indonesia cycling classic with a flourish by capturing third overall honors at the end of the ninth and final lap from Gili-manuk to Denpasar, Bali, last Wednesday.

The Filipino riders played it smart and raced trouble-free in the 35-km stage that ended in this famous resort city to hold off Hong Kong. They covered the 1,053-km tour in 109 hours, 56 minutes and 27 seconds.

Powerhouse Greenfields Fresh Milk of the Netherlands took the team championship at 109:35.43, while Pougou Sweet Nice took second spot at 109:48.08.

Hong Kong wound up fourth overall. Lloyd Reynante emerged as the top Filipino overall finisher at 13th spot, Joel Calderon at 14th and 2004 Tour Pilipinas champion Rhyen Tanguilig at 16th, and Bernard Luzon, the only RP biker to win a lap, placed 33rd.



A SIZABLE crowd watch as mountain riders sample the punishing sections of the Mt. Magarwak course in Puerto Princesa, site of the 10th Asian Mountain Bike Championships.

## Asian bikefest kicks off today

By Jane Navarro

**PUERTO PRINCESA CITY**—Eusebio Quinones and Frederick Feliciano are both confident and under tremendous pressure.

As co-leaders of the 11-man RP team, Quinones and Feliciano carry the bulk of the expectations of the highly partisan crowd at the start today of the 10th Asian Mountain Bike (MTB) Championships here.

The Filipinos will kick off their campaign in the men's downhill competition with Parabanne Mendoza, Michael Borja and Joey Barba taking the first crack at ruling the event in the Asian level.

"We will cheer for them at the sidelines. They will need all the support they could get for us to exploit our advantage," said Quinones and Feliciano, anchors of the RP men's team in the cross-country event which will be held tomorrow.

Borja, a silver medalist in the Danao Southeast Asian Championship this year, and Mendoza are the country's brightest hopes in the 1.7-km downhill course while Barba can pull off surprises with his familiarity of the terrain.

Battered by rains the last three days, the hilly course in Sitio Magarwak, Barangay Lourdes has slippery sections, particularly along one stretch midway in the track. Here riders need to negotiate a 90-degree, 10-meter drop.

This same stretch was particularly uncom-

able for Indonesian rider Agus Suherlan who broke his left wrist yesterday after losing control of the handle bar and falling off his bike during the team's practice ride.

"Accidents are quite inevitable, especially in a slippery course," said RP coach Jemel Lorenzo in the event sponsored by Air21, Tour Pilipinas Inc., PSC, POC, Kontrol sunglasses, PAL, Cargobus, Dos E, E-konek, Mail&More, Agus De Laguna, and the local government of Puerto Princesa.

Event partners are dzSR Sports Radio 91.8, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, K-Lite 103.5, Jam 88.93, 99.5 RT, the Departments of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Immigration and Deportation; Western Command of the AFP, the PNP as well as Intrastarts, RMC Travel Agency Inc. and Asturias Hotel, Hotel Fleuris, Kinabuch Grill and Bar in Puerto Princesa and Elixir Trading Corp.

Nabona rider Athena Beltran will carry the flag in the women's downhill, but she expects rough sailing against Japan's Miho Kurosawa, silver medalist in 2004 world championships in Canada.

Meanwhile, Asian Cycling Confederation head Dato Seri Darshan Singh Gill presided over the ACC's management meeting yesterday to chart the future of the sport in the region.

Darshan was joined by Philcycling president Alberto Luna and cycling officials from China, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Chinese Taipei and Vietnam.



PUMAREN

## Pumaren agrees to handle ICTSI in PBL

By Jasmine W. Payo

FRANZ Pumaren will have one final run with La Salle.

The multititled collegiate coach, who is set to leave for a vacation in the United States, finally confirmed yesterday that he will coach the ICTSI-La Salle team in the PBL Open Championship.

"I will most likely miss the ear-

ly games of ICTSI-La Salle because I'll be unwinding in the States with my wife," he said.

The PBL kicks off on Oct. 23.

Assistant coaches Jojo Villapando, Ger Abamilla and Jack Santiago will temporarily take over the bench.

"Before I go, I'm leaving the program and the system with the team," he noted.

Pumaren announced he had coached his final season for La Salle after steering the Archers to the championship in the recently-concluded UAAP basketball season.

But the 41-year-old tactician had, until yesterday, remained undecided if he will handle the team in the PBL.

ICTSI, tipped as one of the teams to beat, will field an all-La

Salle roster.

UAAP Finals MVP Mac Carlona will again lead their campaign.

Archers Ryan Araña, Finas hero JV Casio, Tim Gatchalian, Oliver Cua and Mark Benitez were elevated in the roster in the recent PBL draft.

It will be a comeback season for La Salle, who skipped the previous PBL Unity Cup.

**Tanong Bayan** **INOVA TV**

Hart ang Inyang "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipilin narin ang pinkamegaling na sigat. Ang premyo Inyang-Tagar leang 21" color TV set!

Type: INOVA "ang Inyang sigat", "bung pengalita", "ayudado a probinsya", "iposipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 8 PM. Winner will be identified during the InOVA program: Thursday, 10:30pm, on ABC.

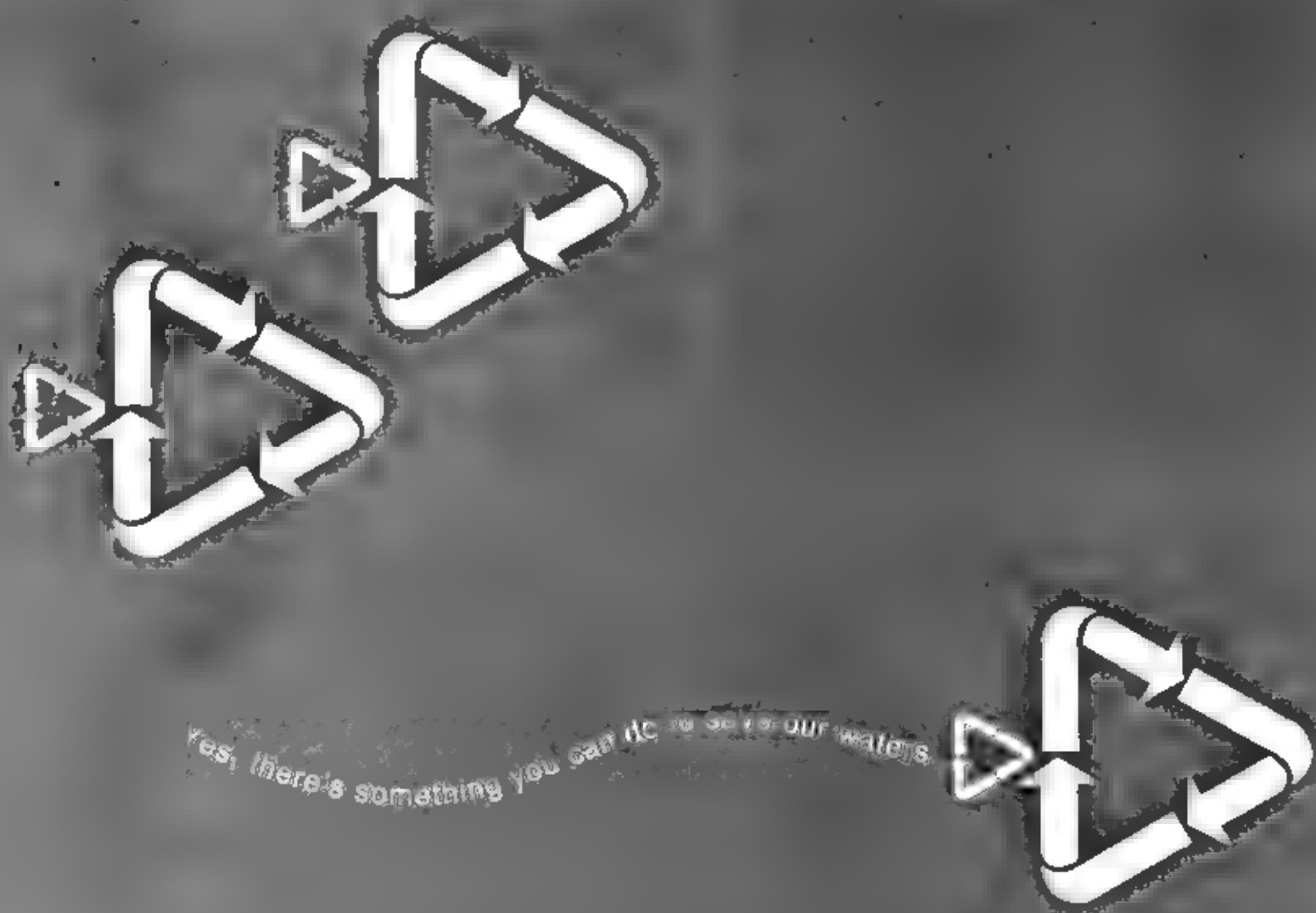
**text 2910**

**Winston sa GSIS, atbp. Oras na bang bumaba?**

Last week's Fearless View winner

"Wala puro urapisa wlang ipos, puro kwento wlang kwenta!"

**Ronnie E. Monteverde, Lucena City**



Yes, there's something you can do to save our waters.





**JAPANESE OPEN:** Lleyton Hewitt of Australia returns a shot against Cyril Saulnier of France during their quarterfinal match in the Japan Open in Tokyo, Friday, Oct. 8, 2004. Hewitt won, 7-5, 6-1.

# Inter-Club badminton tourney on

By Musong R. Castillo

**THE BIGGEST** amateur interclub badminton event in the country that has lured a huge number of celebrities finally gets off the ground today with the East area eliminations at the West Drive badminton club in Pasig.

The first shot of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Platinum Cup will be hit by Inquirer president Sandy Pineda-Romualdez when she declares the tournament open after the 8:30 a.m. registration and opening ceremonies.

Fourteen club teams will be represented in the tournament, which stakes a holiday trip for two to Bangkok, Thailand. The winning team will earn the distinction of being the first champion of this trailblazing event co-presented Globe Platinum and INQUIRER BADMINTON.

The tournament will be played every weekend until the championships on Nov. 20 and 21.

Major sponsors are the Philippine Airlines, Mizuno and L. Times-rudio. Gerflor Taraflex is main sponsor and Nestle is the official drink provider.

Former national basketball players Joey Guanio and Dickie Bachmann will try to excel in this sport, which has taken the country by storm. Another participant worth watching is Randy Villanueva, the former national tennis player who can make his size work to his advantage.

The leg will be a round-robin affair with the top two clubs in each group advancing to the semifinals.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Hope Haven set at Clearwater

A UNIQUE basketball training camp for youngsters 9 to 17 years old, dubbed as the Hope Haven, is set on Oct. 29 to 31 at the Clearwater Country Club inside Clark Special Economic Zone inside Clark Field in Pampanga. Organized by AEG Inc., the basketball camp covers both beginners and intermediate/advanced players with the beginners going through regular basketball skills enhancing exercises focused on ball handling, dribbling and layups. The advanced group will undergo a team training experience as they learn defensive and offensive systems, one-on-ones, and even game analyses. Other camp activities include team-building, parent-child challenges and 3-point shoot-outs. The camp is open to both live-in and live-out participants though the live-in slots are limited to the first 50 registrants. The total number of camp participants is limited to 100 kids on a first-come, first-served basis, according to camp director Jay Salvador. The cost for live-out participants is P2,000, while for those who will enjoy full board and lodging at Clearwater, entry fee is P5,000. Deadline for registration is Oct. 20. For details, call 0918-2410144, (02) 426-5955 to 56.

### Milo Best last day of enrolment

TODAY is the last day for enrolment in the Milo Best Center's Saturday-only classes for levels 1 and 2 in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Classes are set from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Don Bosco, Sta. Cruz. Young boys and girls who wish to join the cage clinic may contact Gloria Gabuslay at tel. no. (049) 536-0501 and cell phone no. 09194628820.



**AMBASSADOR'S CUP:** FIBL commissioner Dillo Budhrani and Indian Ambassador to the Philippines Madam Navrekhia Sharma unveil the FIBL 2004 Ambassador's Cup during the opening ceremony held at the residence of the Ambassador recently.

### 8-Stage national derby next month

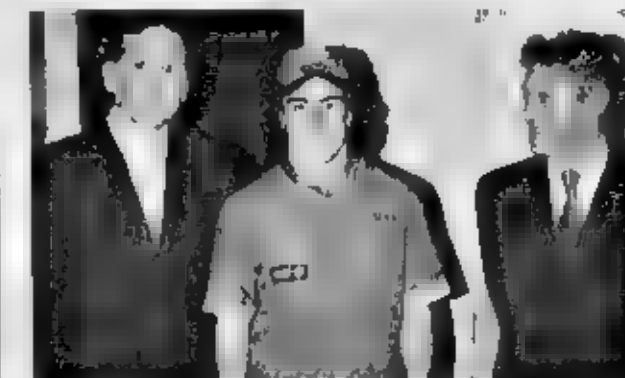
THE NATIONAL Cocks Association will hold the NCA Grand Championship 8-Stage National Derby on Nov. 9, 11 and 13 at the Araneta Coliseum. Secretary-general Jim Santiago said that every year, the NCA provides scholarships to poor but deserving students. The latest addition to NCA's roster of scholars this year are two JPLB students taking up veterinary medicine and agriculture major in poultry science and 12 students taking up computer science at Miriam Academy. Meanwhile, the next NCA 7-Stage Derby, part of the Stagwars 2004, is on Oct. 19 and 21. Contact 911-3101 and 911-2928.

### LPC hosts 4-stage derby today

PROMINENT cocks and breeders are seeing action in today's 4-stage derby at the air-conditioned Las Pñas Coliseum. The event, sponsored by Sagupaan Complex 3000 and Pagcor, will banner 56 fights. It will be hosted by Rey Oliveros of Rizal who is well-known for his Blue Ridge entry. The cash prize at stake is P300,000. Coliseum manager Alex Tobias said regular hawkfights are also staged at LPC from Monday to Sunday. Meanwhile, Eric dela Rosa's Labanan Sa Pasay belatedly ruled the fifth leg of the Gentlemen Cocks Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-Stage Derby Monday night. Currently leading the GCAP Staglighter of the Year race are Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Complex 3000) and partners Ramon Manencenas and Tony Faustino (EDL Farms) with identical 17.5 points. The next GCAP Derby is on Oct. 18. For inquiries, contact 873-1040 and 874-3910.

### PBA offers membership cards

THE PBA is now offering the PBA Privilege Membership Cards for the 2004-05 season. Purchase of the Privilege Membership Card enables the fans to reserve seats in advance and get a glimpse of the game from a location of their choice inside the coliseum. "The PMC is the next best thing we can offer our loyal fans aside from guaranteeing them thrilling games every payday," said Commissioner Norberto Eala. The PBA also reduced P1,000 from all seat levels to make sure the prices are affordable. The prices for each PMC are as follows: Lower Box A, Premium - P5,000 per seat; Patron A, Lower Box B and Special Ringside - P4,000 per seat; Patron B, Lower Box C and Courtside - P3,000 per seat; Upper Box A and Lower Box - P2,000. For inquiries, call 6365320-21. Look for Jerry Mesias or Nestor Noblejas.



**FORMULA ONE RACER:** Spanish Formula One racing champion Fernando Alonso visited Manila recently. He stayed at the Peninsula Manila where he was met by General Manager David Batchelor (left) and Resident Manager Charles Morris (right).

### South Waters horseback riding

THE SOUTH Waters Marina Country Club and Farm will open on Tuesday at Teachers Village, Barangay Cotta (abang yam, Quezon Ave., Lucena City). Horseback riders and enthusiasts will be treated to a day of fun and excitement, showcasing the latest trends in the development of an ideal, eco-friendly and sustainable country club. Leading the opening rites of the country club as principal sponsor is newly appointed PCSO chair Serge Valenciano with internationally renowned equestrienne Milka Cojuangco-Jaworski, and chair of Rustan's Group of Companies, Ambassador Blumentado Tancoco Sr., Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga, Quezon Province Governor Wilfredo Envera and Congressman Proceso Alcala. For details, call Lucena Office at 042-3737573; Manila Office at 921-1104, No. 87 Scout Fuentebella St., Morato Ave., Quezon City.

### Assistant sports ed's son dies

PETER John G. Carpio, eldest son of The Philippine Star assistant sports editor Gerry Carpio, died at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center after a vehicular accident Thursday night. He was 19. He is survived by parents Gerry and Emma, brothers Patrick Jonathan and Paul Jerome and sister Aileen. His remains lie in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapel on Quezon Ave., QC. Interment is on Tuesday at the Heaven's Gate in Antipolo.

### Pedralvez passes away at 78

RODOLFO Pedralvez Sr., father of The Manila Times sports sub-editor Manolo "Bong" Pedralvez, passed away yesterday. He was 78. He leaves behind children Manolo, Arsenio and Rodolfo Jr. Interment will be at

## WBO champ Bautista in Bohol today

TAGBILARAN City, Bohol—World Boxing Organization Asia Pacific bantam king Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista will face the media here today to formally announce his Oct. 24 bout against Indon Lontar Simanjuntak at the Bohol Wisdom School Gym.

The ALA boy Bautista, who will be joined by Tagbilaran City Mayor

Atty. Dan Neri Lim, will answer queries from the media during the 11 a.m. press conference to be held at brand-new Island Mall here.

The boxing extravaganza in Tagbilaran City is called "The Pride of Bohol," which does not refer only to Bautista but to six other young Boholano prospects who will be fighting in the same card.

Among the Boholanos appearing in the card are PBF featherweight champion Caesar Amonsoy, the pride of Jagna, who will take on Indon Leed Sabu; Melvin Ayudrud, who will go up against Johnny Lear; Along Denoy, who will take on Jhay Herla and three promising pugilists Willy Bullecer, upcoming Isidro Balabat and Noy Agcopra.

Bullecer will trade leathers with Japanese Mori Iwatani; Balabat swaps mitts with Robert Allanco; while Noy Agcopra takes on Jerry Mangarup.

Other bouts pit Park Cheon Su versus Markyll Taraja; and Danny Boy Bontilao versus Rico Genon. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

## St. Louis tops volleyball tilt

ST. Louis College of Valenzuela beat Rizal High School in straight sets, 25-10, 25-15, 25-14, to rule the Ponds Women's High School Volleyball held recently in Makati.

Captain ball Verone Gutierrez powered St. Louis College of Valenzuela to the championship and bagged the Most Valuable Player award.

Gutierrez was joined in the Mythical Six by teammates Charleen Abigail Cruz and Joan Arceo, Berna Casipong and Mary Grace Buao of Rizal High School, Ruth Ester Torrente of Arellano University and Diane Marie Dalundon of Pateros National High School.

Aside from St. Louis College and Rizal High School, the other semifinalists were Arellano University and Pateros National High School. More than 500 female high school students from 20 schools vied in the tournament, part of which was held at the Angecium College in Quezon City.

All the participating teams received volleyballs from Wilson, the official ball of the tournament.

## Gins, Barakos visit Robinsons

IT WILL be Red Bull and Barangay Ginebra's turn to grace the PBA's One-on-One at Robinsons Malls promo tour with the Thunder appearing at Robinsons Novauches and the Gin Kings meeting and greeting their fans at Robinsons Imus today.

On its third week, the mall hopping tour has generated interest from the public, gauging from their response to the visits of the Alaska and FedEx cagers to Robinsons Manila and Robinsons-Canta last week.

Also on tap in the tour, organized by the PBA Properties Inc. and supported by Aceel, FedEx, and Mail and More, are the PBA interactive display, photo gallery, hand and shoe prints, giant inflatable basketballs, graffiti wall and a half court.

## Luisita plays host to Football Fiesta

STRIKER Nico Paolo Baquing scored the first hat trick of the tournament as Don Bosco Technical Institute whipped Tarlac City Magsikap, 5-0, at the start of the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta recently at the Luisita field in Tarlac.

Other results saw Tarlac West Central defeat San Miguel ES, 3-1; Mapalacsiang ES edge Central Asuncion de Tarlac, 1-0; and Marawak High beat Alwindia-Agusa High School, 2-0.

The Tarlac leg of the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta was organized in the province by the Football Association of Tarlac led by its president, Councilor Glenn Caritativo.

Among the opening ceremony guests in the official 14-under tournament of the Philippine Football Federation were city mayor Genaro Mendoza, tourism council chair Lydia Co, Red Ribbon Bakeshop president Danny Moran and PFF president Johnny Romualdez.



### EASY DOES IT

ROBBIE Hermoso of Team Honda steadies his 2003 Honda Civic Vtec coming off a tight curve during the sixth leg of the 2004 National Rallycross-Rallysprint Championship Series last Saturday at the Lhasang Ipit-Ipit in Pasay City. Hermoso clocked 1:05.94 and came out big to rule the NRC 19 category.

### SVI-PETRON GP

## Ramirez nears 1st title

AFTER a two-month break, the 2004 SVI-Petron Grand Prix returns to the limelight this weekend with overall leader Louie Ramirez of Petron-SRA trying to move closer to his first-ever championship at the Subic International Raceway.

Buoyed by his come-from-behind triumph over archrival and defending champion Jody Coseteng of Red Horse-Caltex in the previous round held last July 18, Ramirez tries to widen his 15-point lead in the overall standings in the centerpiece Blaze super saloon category.

Ramirez, one of four sons of legendary car racing champion Pocho Ramirez, has a 10-round aggregate of 66 points based on the 10-6-4-3-2-1 scoring system being used by the organizing Sports Values Inc. (SVI).

Trailing him with 49 points is Coseteng, who had won four of the last five races with surprising ease.

"I just do my best this weekend and hope

for the best," said Ramirez, who is hoping to become the fourth member of the tightly-knit Ramirez clan to win the overall title in the country's premier car racing competition.

Jody is fast catching up on points, but I'm still confident even with still four rounds remaining," added Ramirez.

George Ramirez, the second winningest driver in the 10-year old history of local circuit racing, is at third with 40 points.

Perennial contender Kookke Ramirez is fourth with 37 points, while Dominic Uy of Velocity Motors-H&R is fifth with 15 points.

Spicing up the day's competition is the battle between Miguel Lazaro of Liqui-Moly-Shark and Renan Morales of Paragon Brokerage in both the SVI Challenge and novice categories.

Lazaro is enjoying a 14-point lead over Morales and Dominique Bon of SRA, 58-44, in the SVI Challenge Cup.



**SEALED BY A HANDSHAKE:** It's green and go for the staging of the 16th edition of the Yaluk 10-Miler at the CPP Complex grounds on November 7. Shown in photo taken recently during the contract signing for the said annual event are (from left) Melody Dy Sun, Harold Anzai, Yaluk Phils. Executive vice president, race organizer Rudy Biscocho and Michael Ong, assistant manager sales and planning department.



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## Powerhouse creative team back for 'Birhen ng Caysasay' musical

By Rito P. Asilo

**Y**EARS ago, "Karyt," the original Filipino musical on the life, career and love of v-devil queen Katy dela Cruz, was a popular and critical hit. The landmark Music Theater Philippines production had a top creative team that included composer Ryan Cayabyab, director Nestor U. Torre, and production designer Leo Rialp.

"Karyt" was hailed as one of the best Filipino musicals ever staged, and was cited as the top cultural event of the year. After that much-admired show, which was performed some 30 times at Riza Theater and the CCP, the members of its creative team went on to separately stage other successful presentations, but theater buffs looked forward to their next joint project together.

### Much-awaited project

After many years, that much-awaited project will soon be staged at the CCP's Little Theater. It's the new Marian musical, "Mapaghamalang Kamay ng Birhen ng Caysasay," which will be mounted by the CCP the Taal CHARM Foundation, Blessed Virgin of Caysasay Foundation, and the Taal Heritage Foundation, from Dec. 7 to 10.

In the exciting new work, Cayabyab is composing the songs, Torre is the writer and director, and Rialp is the production designer. It is hoped that their outstanding theatrical team will once more come up with a memorable stage musical that will move viewers, both during its initial CCP run, and on its performance tour of Batangas, Laguna and adjoining provinces early next year.

True to their penchant for utilizing the best performing talents, the new musical's creative team is fielding a gifted cast of experienced musical theater stars and new talents.

They are working creatively together to dramatize the powerful and moving story of the four-century tradition and spiritual influence of the much-loved Birhen ng Caysasay on the residents of Taal, Batangas, as well as on devotees all over the country, and even abroad.

### High standard

Torre, Cayabyab and Rialp first worked together in the Manila Hotel's glittering musical special, "Manila, Manila, As Time Goes By," with Rialp directing, Cayabyab composing, and Torre scripting. The acclaimed production set a high standard that they have worked hard to match and even surpass in their subsequent productions, either as a team or separately.

Cayabyab's other outstanding musicals include the longrunning "Magnificat," Tanghaang Pilapino's "Noli" and "Fili," and Music Theater Philippines' "Larawan, the Musical."

Torre has written and/or directed acclaimed productions like "Magsimula Ka," "Magnificat," "Awit ni Kadagnang," "Mga Angat sa lupa," "Ang Bagong Bituin," "Padre Pio," "Bakha," "Enquette for Mistresses," and "Nasaan si Hesus?"

Rialp, an exceptional director in his own right, has chalked up hits like "Elechle Dysfunction," "Alakabok," "Menopause" and "Rama at Sita."

Their reunion as a powerhouse creative team augurs well for their latest collaboration, "Mapaghamalang Kamay ng Birhen ng Caysasay," which starts its run at the CCP Little Theater on Dec. 7. Organizations interested in sponsoring a performance of the new Marian musical are asked to call executive producer Ramon Orlina at 781-5918, or email [orlina@nfo.com.ph](mailto:orlina@nfo.com.ph).



**IMAGE** of the Virgin who for 400 years has been the spiritual helpmeet of the residents of Taal, Batangas, and devotees in other parts of the country.

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# Celebrity voice actors come into their own

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we visited the DreamWorks studio in California, USA some years ago, we caught the first wave of "celebrity" voice talents working on such animation projects as "Prince of Egypt" and "Shrek."

At the time, we were told that stars who voice-acted for animated features agreed to do the work for a relative pittance, because the voice-dubbing took only a few days.

Well, no longer. Full-length animated features have become such big money-earners that celebrity voice-actors now get paid millions of dollars for their (minimal) pains.

This is no skin off producers' noses, because animated hits like "Shrek" rack up something like \$800 million at the tills, so even if the production pays Mike Myers \$10 million for voicing the film's title role, it's really no big deal.

## Plus factors

Other plus factors for celebrity dubbers include the fact that they can easily squeeze their voice-acting chores into their work schedules, and don't even have to look good when they go to the sound studio.



MYERS. Voiced "Shrek." DENIRO. "Shrek Tale." KLINE. "Toy Story." CLOONEY. "Prince of Egypt."

Some stars also appreciate the fact that animated features give them the opportunity to reach out to the kiddie or youth audience that they may not be able to connect with if they act mostly in "for adults" projects.

## Relationship

Even the relationship between the voice actors and the animators has changed. Time was when the dubbers first saw the movie already in its finished form, and all they had to do was to match their voices to the opening and closing of their animated characters' mouths.

These days, however, a celebrity voice-actor is sometimes invited to help create the character assigned

to him, by voicing the character's lines even before the animation process has been completed.

Some stars are even shot as they move and walk, and their idiosyncratic movements and facial expressions are sometimes used by animators as their guides as to how a celebrity's assigned cartoon character should look and act.

## Changes

All of these changes are due to the increasing importance of the celebrity factor in the complex task of marketing a cartoon feature.

That's why a number of animated characters these days are made to look and move like their popular voice-actors, to keep

their celebrity status constantly in the viewer's consciousness.

## Ace director

Voice-acting in animated features has become so popular that even "serious" actors like Robert De Niro and Judi Dench have done it. Other "surprise" voice-actors include "Today" show host Katie Couric and even ace director Martin Scorsese.

This is a far cry from the early days of animation, when dubbers were paid less than \$1,000 for voicing a major character, and their identities were kept a secret from the public. Today voice-actors' celebrity status is used to further animate the resurgent animation scene!



BERNAL. Leads cast of Spanish director's latest opus.

## Almodóvar honored at New York filmfest

NEW YORK—It's all about Pedro Almodóvar at the New York Film Festival, where the irreverent, unimpeachable Spanish filmmaker will be honored with a look back at his work.

The director of such complex, theatrical films as "Talk to Her," "All About My Mother" and "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown," who's long been a favorite at the festival, will arrive with his latest, "Bad Education."

Many other respected veteran filmmakers—including Jean Luc Godard, Ingmar Bergman, Zhang Yimou and Mike Leigh—are returning to the 42nd annual festival this month.

## Appropriate time

Richard Peña, program director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center, which organizes the festival, said this seemed like an appropriate time to honor Almodóvar because it's sort of their 20th anniversary together.

"It dawned on us that the first year we showed Pedro was in '85 with 'What Have I Done to Deserve This?'," Peña said.

"Bad Education, which for me is his masterpiece thus far, is a film that sums up so many things that have been a part of his work, but it also points toward a new direction in which he's going. So, it is a good time to look back on his career."

Almodóvar's new film, a highly personal reflection on Catholic upbringing, starring Mexican actor Gael García Bernal ("The Motorcycle Diaries," "Y Tu Mama Tambien"), plays as the festival's centerpiece film.

## Highlights

But before that, the Film Society of Lincoln Center will pay tribute to Almodóvar with "Viva Pedro!" featuring highlights

from his movies and a discussion with the writer-director.

Previous Almodóvar films that have appeared at the festival include "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" (opening night 1988) "All About My Mother" (opening night 1999) and "Talk to Her" (closing night 2002).

"What for us has always been a great aspect of his work is a certain unpredictability. He's a director that's constantly surprising," said Peña, who's also chairman of the festival's selection committee.

"Nothing in his films is easy or predictable, in the sense that that's even how you feel toward his characters. Look at 'Bad Education.' In many ways, the most sympathetic person is a priest who's a former abuser of young boys."

## Screenplay prize

The festival opened last week with "Look at Me" by Agnès Jaoui, the French director whose "The Taste of Others" (2000) was nominated for an Oscar for best foreign language film. Her latest, which won the screenplay prize at Cannes, is a comedy about a cranky, overweight 20-year-old woman.

At the end of the festival, writer-director Alexander Payne returns with "Sideways," an observant comedy with a '70s vibe about mismatched best friends (Paul Giamatti and Thomas Haden Church) on a road trip to the wine country of California's central coast.

Payne, whose "About Schmidt" starring Jack Nicholson was the opening night film in 2002, said he likes being involved with the New York Film Festival because it's selective. Unlike Toronto or Cannes, which shows about 300 films, only about two dozen movies play each year in New York. AP

## Lifeline from infants

### STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero



RESOURCE speakers at Weston's Bulong Pukungan: (from left) Dr. Leong See Odd, Monica Feria, Dr. Rebecca B. Singing, Dr. Teo Cheng Peng and Dr. Lora Tansengco.

STEM cells, which are vital for cellular repair and gene therapy, are commonly extracted from the bone marrow of embryos. But, with the technological breakthrough known as cord blood banking, doctors have found an alternative way of extracting these cells—one that's safer, cheaper and simpler.

Two physicians from Singapore, Dr. Teo Cheng Peng and Dr. Leong See Odd, both experts of cord blood banking, explained this major discovery to obstetricians and expectant mothers during a two-hour lecture at the Bulong Pukungan at the Weston Philippine Plaza last Sept. 28.

## Safer

Co-founders of Singapore's Stemcord Private Ltd., the two physicians said that cord blood

banking is a safer and less expensive way of obtaining stem cells. In cord blood banking, residual blood is taken from an infant's umbilical cord in a cryogenic tank right after delivery. Cord blood is a rich source of hematopoietic stem cells, which are used for the treatment of cancer and blood disorders.

The process of cord blood banking is short and simple, and does not involve ethical or moral issues.

Dr. Teo said, "It is an opportunity. When you bank your baby's

cord blood stem cells, you are saving what may be a key component to medical cures in the future."

## Criteria

In 2002, Stemcord was established, with Dr. Teo as medical director. The blood bank, employing stringent criteria set by the American Association of Blood

Banks, now has 3,000 clients!

The following year, the firm opened a branch in the Philippines located in Quezon City.

It is responsible for developing the transport and delivery protocols in transferring collections from local hospitals to Singapore's cryogenic facilities. It currently serves 70 clients.

## Bo Sanchez to launch new book

THE HALL had bad acoustics. Activities at the booths surrounding the audience created added noise. Plus, the crowd needed time to settle down. All that ambient sound would have been

enough to distract the audience from paying attention to the speaker onstage.

## Attention

But, it didn't take long for

Catholic lay preacher Bo Sanchez to grab the attention of his audience. "Everyday, I ask my wife what I can do to make her happier," he said. "Nothing ready, because I'm already happy," she

would answer. She would later say, "A two-minute foot massage will do." So I gave her a two-minute foot massage."

"Then, it was her turn to ask me," BOY A2-4

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM OCTOBER 9 TO OCTOBER 15, 2004									
CH	6:00	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00
1	6:30 Star in a Hat 7:30 TV Patrol 8:00 Magandang Gabi Bayan 9:00 Home Along da Airport 10:00 Victor 11:00 Kapulapuyan 11:30 Sports Unleashed	6:00 National Geographic 7:00 Vice Ang Puroy 8:00 Search for the 1st Dynasty Billiards Player	6:00 Asian 9 Ball 7:00 Vice Ang Puroy Angser 4 Kung Lingo 9:00 Sing, Saling 10:00 Mayor Ch's Asst 10:30 ABC Treats Melhor	5:30 Percy Pop Superstar 6:30 Brawl - Japanese Videos 7:30 Judo Challenge 8:15 Interrogator 9:30 Judo Ko Si Kapi 11:00 Out	6:00 Tumbong Mo Kay Jolly 7:00 Goin' 8:00 Joke Out 9:00 Saturday Night Playmate 11:00 PGMA	6:00 Jits and Vira Central 7:00 Bago 8:00 Jorjaling Pinanahan 9:00 D.I.V.A 10:00 El Shantal	6:00 Sports TV 6:30 Soccer Plan 7:00 7th Heaven 7:30 Boston Public 8:40 America's Next Top Model 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:15 Real Deal	6:00 Agent Reports 6:30 Soccer Savers 7:30 Eurozone 8:00 Car Guys 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Laming Daan 10:00 Pasugo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
2	5:30 Raul K. Hando Ka Mo Ba? 7:00 Wansapalayan 8:30 Tandang Na 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 The Weekend News	6:00 Kiko's Metalista Lancer 10:00 Juvies Series Championships 9:00 Go For Gold 11:00 Jolene's Diving	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 Vira Cine 100s Pooking Macabalar Lalong Kunglaping 11:00 ABC Thriller Jolan Ayala Cup Highlights	5:00 Pinokio and Jay 7:00 K' the P1 Million Vulture Challenge 8:00 May-Prising Dates 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 10:00 Sunday Night Show Office	6:00 Studio 23 News 7:00 Kung's Believe It or Not 8:00 May-Prising Dates 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 10:00 JRPC TV	6:00 Home Shopping Network 7:00 Legacy of Hero 8:00 Persa 9:00 In the Corner 10:00 Global Family Series 10:30 El Sarcata	6:00 Hingay 7:00 The Amazing Race 8:00 Two D's 1st Man 8:30 Jap. Show Me 9:00 Wei & Grace 9:30 10:15 Digital Tour 10:45 The Bachelor 2	6:00 Captured 6:30 Fresh Gear 7:00 Convergence 7:30 Eurozone 8:00 New Yankee Workshops 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Laming Daan 10:00 Ang Iglesia ni Cristo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
3	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Victim Extravale 7:45 Mañana 8:15 Bata! Katarina Kita 8:45 Hiram 9:15 It Might Be You 9:45 OK Angel Whatwakes 11:00 Insider 11:30 The Correspondent	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Search for the 1st Dynasty Billiards Player 8:00 Teleserye 10:00 Dail Mail	5:30 Arnie Rung Kaping 6:30 Seniro 7:00 1st Dynasty 7:30 Forever in My Heart 8:00 Manara 9:30 Jap. Head 10:00 Jolene's Diving 10:30 ABC 11:30 Dream Music Videos	6:00 24 Oras 7:00 Judo Challenge 7:45 Mañana 8:30 Forever in My Heart 9:00 Manara 9:30 Jap. Head 10:00 Jolene's Diving 10:30 ABC 11:30 Dream Music Videos	6:00 Insider Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Judo 8:00 Judo 9:00 Judo 10:00 Judo 10:30 Judo 11:00 Judo	6:00 Home Shopping Network 6:30 Pando 7:00 Judo 7:30 Judo 8:00 Judo 9:00 Judo 10:00 Judo 10:30 Judo 11:00 Judo	6:00 Bata! Katarina Kita 6:30 Bata! Katarina Kita 7:00 Bata! Katarina Kita 7:30 Bata! Katarina Kita 8:00 Bata! Katarina Kita 8:30 Bata! Katarina Kita 9:00 Bata! Katarina Kita 9:30 Bata! Katarina Kita 10:00 Bata! Katarina Kita 10:30 Bata! Katarina Kita 11:00 Bata! Katarina Kita 11:30 Bata! Katarina Kita	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos	
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# Jamie Rivera inspires through her music

By Jocelyn Valle

JAMIE Rivera doesn't feel pressured to live up to the "Inspirational Diva" tag that she's earned for churning out religious hits. "My lifestyle has always been quiet and free from controversy," she says. "My relationship with God has become more personal. I've realized that my purpose in life is to write and record these songs."

Jamie, a UST graduate, burst into the entertainment scene after winning G.A. Yungco's search for Music Mate girls in 1985. She established herself as a singer and songwriter with hits like "Hey, It's Me," "I've Fallen for You," "Awit Para sa 'Yo'" and "Mahal Naman Kita." She co-wrote the hit song, "Maybe," successfully revived recently by new singer King, for Neocolours.

## Stage productions

In the '90s, Jamie dabbled in acting in "Paniwalaan Mo Ako" (with Aga Muhlach and Dawn Zulueta), and in stage productions like "Miss Saigon" (where she played Kim for two years), "Bugis Street" (staged in Singapore), and "Tinoy." She was also part of the re-staging of "Magsimula Ka" for its 10th year anniversary in 1992.

By 2000, Jamie successfully recorded "The Jubilee Song," and has since come up with nine religious albums, including "Heal Our Land," "Only Selfless Love" and "Mystera Lucis."

Her latest CD, "The Purpose-Driven Life," musically articulates the message of Rick Warren's bestseller. She shares that, of the teachings in the book, she's most moved by the chapter that encourages Christians to go back to Jesus. "I felt that in my heart during my mother's dying days," she recalls. "She was forcing herself to get up so that she could help somebody get back to Him."

## New album

Jamie dedicates the new album to her mom, Perla Hizon Cruz, who passed away while she was working on "The Purpose-Driven Life." "Your life echoed the Master's word. The news of your faith in God is out. We don't even have to say anything anymore—you're the message," she writes in the CD cover.

Jamie relates that Star Records, which released her religious albums, diligently worked on a licensing deal with the Purpose-Driven Life ministry. "To protect the integrity of the book, marami silang hinungating detalye," says Star Records' Annabelle Regalado.

Regalado shares that Jamie's 10-track album contains four original songs, and the rest were recommended by the Purpose-Driven



RIVERA. Still sings pop songs that carry a positive message.

## Life ministry

"But, the album is not a substitute for the book."

There's a big market for religious albums. "The soundtrack of 'Tanging Yaman' reached the quadruple-platinum mark, while 'The Jubilee Song' hit quintuple status," Regalado says.

Despite finding her niche in religious music, Jamie insists that she hasn't turned her back to pop. "I still sing pop songs that carry a positive message," she stresses.

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If you're in charge of maintaining a house, garden or car, you need some time to clean up or tune up. Otherwise, there will be a buildup of unwanted materials.

Similarly, our bodies require regular "tune-ups." The modern term for this activity is detoxification. We need to get rid of the trash that accumulates in our system.

## Natural ways

Fortunately, there are natural ways to keep our system running smoothly.

1. Saunas are a good way to let your body sweat off toxins. You can just sit and relax. A relief for an overburdened system!

Set up your own sauna system. Get a steam inhalator, and put up a "tent" around your body using a blanket. Stick your head out if it gets uncomfortable. Adding eucalyptus oil in the steam inhalator is quite rejuvenating.

2. Taking hot baths will help because they open up pores. You may add herbs to your bath water.

3. If hot steam baths are not your cup of tea, the ocean is a good alternative. The fact is, if you're exposed to electric fields (like traveling on a plane), there will be a buildup of positive ions. A dip in the ocean will rejuvenate the body with negative ions. In addition, salt water "squeezes" toxins out of the body.

## Highly beneficial

4. Exercise is a natural way to detoxify. When you perspire, toxins come out. Simple but highly beneficial forms of exercise are *chikung* and *hatha* yoga. They aren't strenuous, but they promote good circulation and the proper flow of *chi* energy in the body.

5. Enemas are good for cleaning up clogged intestinal passageways. After all, you don't want rotting garbage in your system!

6. Fasting is a great way to unload toxins. Don't worry about hunger pangs. Keep in mind that, when the body starves, it releases accumulated garbage. To assist in the process, drink lots of water. If possible, take a gallon of water a day to wash out impurities.

Email [lotuspand108@hotmail.com](mailto:lotuspand108@hotmail.com)

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**A2-4**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2004**

**SANCHEZ**

SANCHEZ. Popular and charismatic lay preacher.

## Bo Sanchez to launch new book

From page A1-2

"What can I do to make you a happier husband?" I would answer, "Nothing really, because I'm already happy." But, after a while, I'd say, "Ok, a two-hour foot massage would do!"

The crowd breaks out in guffaws. A few minutes later, they're wiping away tears as Bo reminds them to love their families. His half-hour talk at a Pro-Life gathering leaves them inspired with godly messages and wisdom.

Bo's exceptional gift for humorous preaching, and his ability to present the Gospel with great simplicity are some of the reasons why he is one of the most sought-after speakers and retreat masters in the country today. That also explains why his books are popular, and why his magazine, Kerygma, is the most widely-circulated inspirational magazine in the country.

### Gift

But, Bo was not an overnight success. His first crack at public speaking came when he was only 13. He had been attending prayer meetings for six months when, one day, the leader of the group stood up and announced, "Last night, in my prayer, I heard the Lord say, 'I'm giving the gift of wisdom to one of the members of the group. He'll preach the Gospel all over the world.'"

Naturally, Bo's mother was ecstatic! There were only two men in the group—her husband and her son. So, Mrs. Sanchez approached the leader after the meeting and gushed, "My husband will receive the gift of wisdom! He'll start preaching!"

The leader interrupted her, "No, God told me it would be Bo." That almost floored his mom. How could it be Bo when he was still reading Superman comics and watching *Voices V on TV*?

### Inexperienced

But, obeying God's leading, the prayer group leader assigned him to give the talk the following meeting. Young and inexperienced as he was, Bo claims he succeeded in lulling everyone to sleep.

Undaunted with his initial failure, the prayer leader assigned the lad to give the teaching week after week. That launched Bo into what would become his lifetime calling in full-time ministry.

Twenty-four years later, Bo has traveled around the world to minister to Filipinos and foreigners alike. The Kerygma Feast, a Mass and worship event held every first Sunday of the month at the Teatro Agunido, is consistently

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**THE NOTEBOOK**

1 SHARK TALE  
2 WIMBLED



# Bo Sanchez

From page A2-4

packed because people want to hear him speak. Currently, Bo is busy with preparations for Kerygma Level, a half-

day event from 2 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 17 at the Ultra, where he will also be launching his new book, "Your Past Does Not Define Your Future."

**NOW SHOWING**  
**STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP**  
**BREAKING BOXOFFICE RECORDS IN MANILA**



**MILLA JOVOVICH**  
 The beginning of the end.  
**#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA**  
**RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE**

**THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS**  
*landmark illuminated!*  
**NEW RELEASE**

<b>CINEMA 1</b> <b>THE PUNISHER</b> 11:35 2:20 5:00 7:40 10:15 <b>R13</b>	<b>CINEMA 2</b> <b>SHARK TALE</b> 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 10:00 <b>GP</b>
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TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.  
 GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, CANTON AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 722-4406

**MUSIC TV** 11:00-11:30 AM 12:00-12:30 PM 1:00-1:30 PM 2:00-2:30 PM 3:00-3:30 PM 4:00-4:30 PM 5:00-5:30 PM 6:00-6:30 PM 7:00-7:30 PM 8:00-8:30 PM 9:00-9:30 PM 10:00-10:30 PM 11:00-11:30 PM  
 FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-8726 OR 721-0635

**POWER PLANT**  
 Rockwell Center, Manila City Tel. No. 596 (44-4)

<b>OPEN WATER</b> <b>PG13</b> 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	<b>SHARK TALE</b> <b>GP</b> 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	<b>SHARK TALE</b> <b>GP</b> 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20
<b>PUNISHER</b> <b>R13</b> 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05	<b>RESIDENT EVIL 2</b> <b>R13</b> 12:35, 5:15, 10:10 <b>RAISING HELEN</b> <b>GP</b> 2:55, 7:35	<b>WHEELER</b> <b>PG13</b> 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

**MATHEA PG1, MON. TO FRI., SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:40 PM., FREE SEATING.**

**OPENS OCTOBER 13!**  
**MTRCB PG-13** PARENTS ARE ADVISED OF SOME BATTLE SCENES THAT MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN BELOW 13 YRS OLD.

FROM THE PRODUCER OF "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON" AND "HERO"  
**HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS**



DISCIBLED BY WARNER BROS. PICTURES

**MTRCB PG-13** Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

**MAQUIN PRODIGE** **EVERY HERO HAS A DESTINY.** **JOHN TRAVOLTA**

**LADDER 49**

**OCT. 13**

**Now showing in a theater near you!**  
 From the creators of SHREK

**Shark Tale**

Starring the voices of  
 Will Smith  
 Renee Zellweger  
 Jack Black  
 Robert De Niro  
 Angelina Jolie  
 Martin Scorsese

**RESERVE YOUR DVD NOW AND GET AS MUCH AS P200 PRICE OFF!**

**A WOLFGANG PETERSEN FILM**  
**TROY**

W/ FREE COLLECTOR'S PHOTO BOOK, IT

**ASTROVISION**

**WORLD'S FIRST VIDEO RELEASE! OCTOBER 12, 2004**

**AMERICA'S #1 MOVIE**

**Jude LAW** **Gwyneth PALTROW** **Angelina JONE**

**SKY CAPTAIN and the WORLD of TOMORROW**

**SAVE THE WORLD 10/13/04**





# ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS FOR ALL BRANCHES  
Vis it us. www.robnsahsmovieworld.com 635-5555

## TOP MOVIE THEATER

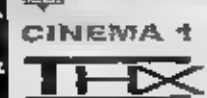
22nd Annual National  
Consumer's Quality Award 2004

Family Consumers  
Choice Award 2003

## NOW SHOWING

### GALLERIA

632-9115 to 16



THE PUNISHER 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

2 SHARK TALE 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	3 OPEN WATER 11:55, 1:55, 3:55, 5:55, 7:55, 10:00	4 SHARK TALE 10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
5 THE PUNISHER 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30	6 WIMBLEDON 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	7 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 FENG SHUI 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	9 RESIDENT EVIL 2 10:45, 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	10 RAISING HELEN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

Regular Price: P150 THX / P100/70 for two levels cinemas / P100 for one level cinemas

### ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

1 SHARK TALE 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	2 OPEN WATER 10:30, 12:30, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30	3 WIMBLEDON 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50	4 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 10:30, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 THE PUNISHER 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40	6 FENG SHUI 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	7 RESIDENT EVIL 2 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	

### METRO EAST

682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 OPEN WATER 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 11:20, 1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00	3 FENG SHUI 11:20, 1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00	4 RAISING HELEN 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	5 SHARK TALE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	6 WIMBLEDON 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	7 THE PUNISHER 11:20, 1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00	8 RESIDENT EVIL 2 10:25, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30
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### NOVALICHES

935-3229 / 31

1 THE PUNISHER
2 OPEN WATER
3 FENG SHUI
4 SHARK TALE
5 THE PUNISHER
6 RESIDENT EVIL 2
7 RAISING HELEN
8 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

### Citistone MALABON

234-0952/5275

1 GODSEND
2 FENG SHUI
3 SHARK TALE
4 JANDARA
5 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
6 SECRET WINDOW
7 GODSEND
8 FENG SHUI
9 RAISING HELEN

### CAINTA

240-4641

1 OPEN WATER
2 THE PUNISHER
3 SHARK TALE
4 FENG SHUI
5 THE PUNISHER
6 THE NOTEBOOK
7 OPEN WATER
8 FENG SHUI
9 SHARK TALE

### DASMARIÑAS

852-2125 / 416-4332

1 THE PUNISHER
2 OPEN WATER
3 SHARK TALE
4 HEAVEN'S POND
5 SECRET WINDOW

### ANGELES

892-2344

1 OPEN WATER
2 THE PUNISHER
3 THE NOTEBOOK
4 SHARK TALE

### STARMILLS

875-1921 / 961-5276

1 RAISING HELEN
2 KRISANTA...BAKA
3 SHARK TALE
4 THE PUNISHER
5 OPEN WATER
6 SECRET WINDOW

### IMUS

471-8100 / 875-5438

1 THE PUNISHER
2 RESIDENT EVIL 2
3 SECRETARY
4 SHARK TALE
5 FENG SHUI
6 OPEN WATER

### BACOLOD

RESERVE

1 RESERVE
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
4 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
5 THE NOTEBOOK
6 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS

### ILOILO

THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 JANDARA
3 13 GOING ON 30
4 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
5 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2



at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

## Shark Tale FunDay

Come & experience a day of fun games and win exciting Shark Tale premium items!

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

# See'emall!

## AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 720-7777

ATC	G1	G4	GB3	ACC
1 SHARK TALE	1 THE PUNISHER	1 RESIDENT EVIL APOCALYPSE	1 WIMBLEDON	1 SHARK TALE
2 WIMBLEDON	2 SHARK TALE	2 WIMBLEDON	2 SHARK TALE	2 OPEN WATER
3 THE PUNISHER	3 OPEN WATER	3 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	3 THE PUNISHER	3 SAVED
4 RESIDENT EVIL APOCALYPSE	4 FENG SHUI	4 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	4 OPEN WATER	4 RESIDENT EVIL APOCALYPSE
5 OPEN WATER		5 SHARK TALE	5 SHARK TALE	5 13 GOING ON 30

## At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA GERMAN FESTIVAL GERMAN EXPO October 8 to 10, 2004	TOWN ANSON'S EXHIBIT October 4 to 17, 2004	AYALA CENTER SIGN LANGUAGE CULMINATING ACTIVITIES October 10, 2004
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## ENTERTAINMENT LINE!

GREENBELT 2 GREENBELT 2 MUSIC STYLES FEATURING THOR October 9 7:00pm to 10:00pm	GREENBELT 3 SPANISH FESTIVAL LETRAS Y FIGURAS PAINTING EXHIBIT October 8 to 15 Greenbelt 3 lobby
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REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents PINOCCHIO  
at REP'S GLOBE THEATER - August 7 to December 12, 2004  
TRADE HALL FOR EXHIBITS, EVENTS AND MORE!  
For inquiries and bookings, please call 750-4982 to 84

**Shark Tale Family Day**  
October 9 & 10  
1:00 - 4:00pm  
Glorietta 4  
Greenbelt 3  
Alabang Town Center

Every purchase of a Shark Tale movie ticket you get:  
**A FREE GLITTER TATTOO or A FREE BEAD SHOP PRODUCT**

Just present your Shark Tale movie ticket or at 200 new lobby to load time zone  
BONUS: 1st and 2nd Family Day books

AYALA CINEMAS  
Love'emall!

Per DTLNCR Permit No. 2357 Series of 2004

**Love'emall!**  
You're just a click away from what's hot and fresh

**SCREENING SCHEDULE (OCT 8 - 11)**

OCT 8 (SAT)	OCT 9 (SUN)	OCT 10 (MON)	OCT 11 (TUE)
2:00 pm Historian Minimas	2:00 pm Días de Furor	2:00 pm Smoking Room	2:00 pm Smiling Room
4:30 pm El Caballero Don Quijote	4:30 pm The City of No Limits	4:30 pm El Juego de la Silla	4:30 pm El Juego de la Silla
7:00 pm En la ciudad	7:00 pm El Otro Lado de la Cama	7:00 pm The City of No Limits	7:00 pm The City of No Limits
9:30 pm The City of No Limits	9:30 pm La Caja 507	9:30 pm La Primera Noche	9:30 pm La Primera Noche

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## A2



CAINE, Anti-hero role in "Get Carter."

## Best British film chosen

LONDON—A graphic but stylish tale of gangster violence beat out James Bond, Monty Python and scores of other British icons in a magazine's ranking of the 50 best British films.

"Get Carter," a 1971 movie starring Michael Caine as a London gangster investigating the mysterious death of his brother, topped other classics like "Life of Brian" and "A Clockwork Orange" to secure the top spot in Total Film magazine's list.

## Pinnacle

"Caine's character is now seen as one of the greatest anti-heroes of all time," said Total Film editor Matt Mueller. "It has stood the test of time, and marks the pinnacle of his career."

"A Matter of Life and Death" (1946), starring David Niven as a British wartime aviator who cheats death, came in second. "Transpotting," the 1996 tale of drug abuse in Scotland that starred Ewan McGregor, was third. "Life of Brian" was the highest ranked Monty Python film, coming in fifth place, while the highest entry for a Bond movie was "From Russia With Love" ranked ninth.

Notable absences from the list include Oscar-winners "The English Patient," "Chariots of Fire," "Oliver" and "Gandhi." Total Film polled 25 film critics for the survey.

## Top 20

The top 20 of the 50 best British films, according to Total Film:

1. "Get Carter" (1971)
2. "A Matter of Life and Death" (1946)
3. "Transpotting" (1996)
4. "The Third Man" (1949)
5. "Life of Brian" (1979)
6. "The Wicker Man" (1973)
7. "Kind Hearts and Coronets" (1949)
8. "Lawrence Of Arabia" (1962)
9. "From Russia With Love" (1963)
10. "Naked" (1993)
11. "Billy Liar" (1963)
12. "A Clockwork Orange" (1971)
13. "Withnail & I" (1987)
14. "Great Expectations" (1946)
15. "If..." (1968)
16. "Kor" (1969)
17. "Brighton Rock" (1947)
18. "Don't Look Now" (1973)
19. "Sexy Beast" (2000)
20. "Brazil" (1985)

AP



# Two similar comedies seek box office 'votes'

LOS ANGELES—Sometimes the world gets two asteroid movies, sometimes we get two (or three) movies about kids switching bodies with their parents.

This election year is apparently a time that requires two romantic comedies about presidential daughters. Following January's "Chasing Liberty," the new "First Daughter" has just opened in theaters, although both were shot at about the same time by different studios.

A look at how the similarly themed films compare:

**The story:**  
"First Daughter"—The president's college-bound daughter feels trapped in the rarefied environment of the White House and is longing for some freespined adventure away from the glare of reporters and the Secret Service.

## Rarefied environment

"Chasing Liberty"—The president's teenage daughter feels trapped in the rarefied environment of the White House and is longing for some freespined adventure away from the glare of reporters and the Secret Service.

**The studio:**  
"First Daughter"—20th Century Fox.  
"Chasing Liberty"—Warner Bros.  
**The daughter:**  
"First Daughter"—Katie Holmes stars as Samantha Mackenzie.  
"Chasing Liberty"—Mandy Moore starred



MOORE, Her character is a teenager longing for adventure.



HOLMES, Plays college-bound "First Daughter."

as Anna Foster.  
**The Dad:**  
"First Daughter"—President Mackenzie is played by Michael Keaton, who was "Batman" in 1989 as millionaire Bruce Wayne.  
"Chasing Liberty"—President Foster is played by Mark Harmon, who played a bat man in 1988's "Stealing Home."

**Quotes:**  
"First Daughter"—Holmes teases her love interest: "One quick call to the FBI or the CIA and I can get your blood type, third-grade class picture and

satellite pictures of your ex-girlfriend's home."

## Restaurant

"Chasing Liberty"—Moore to her father in the Oval Office: "You had that restaurant swarming with all your Secret Service. You ruined my date, and now I'm going to die before I ever get to third base... I mean, second."

**The boyfriend:**  
"First Daughter"—"Buffy the Vampire Slayer" actor Marc Blucas plays James Lansome, the student dorm supervisor whose budding romance with the president's daughter is threatened when she suspects he may be an undercover Secret Service bodyguard. Can true love survive a betrayal with good intentions?

"Chasing Liberty"—Relative newcomer Matthew Goode plays Ben Calder, a handsome British stranger who helps the president's daughter escape her minders and see the sights of Europe. But their budding romance is threatened when she learns he may be an undercover bodyguard. Can true love survive a... well, you get the idea! AP

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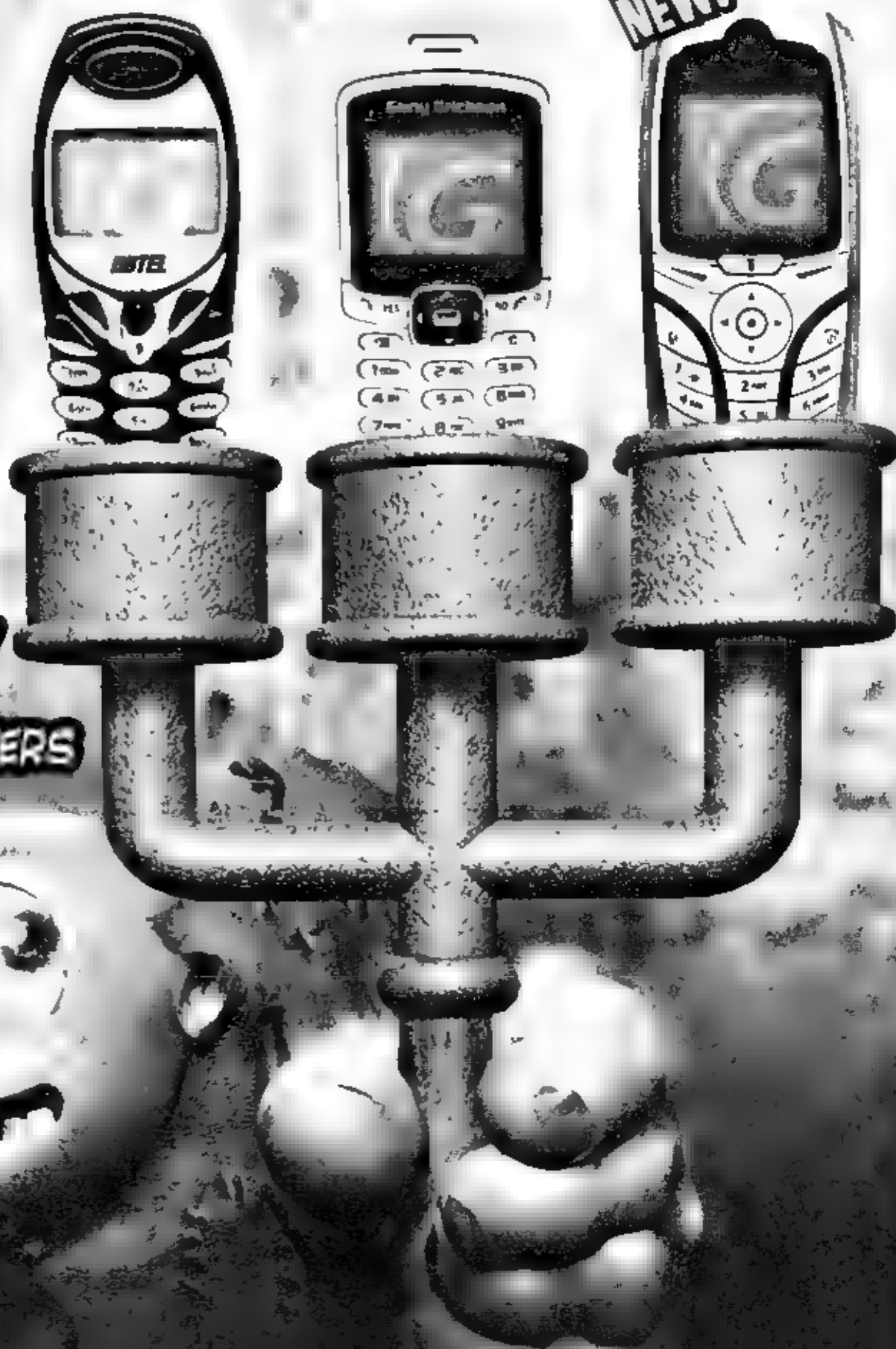
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DMX's character is hired to steal a cache of priceless black diamonds from a vault. After the heist, however, his employer turns up dead and other people want a piece of the action. One of them is Jet Li's character, a Taiwanese government agent, with whom DMX comes to blows.

### 'Ten Times Ten'

"Ten Times Ten," a collection of 10-minute plays about love in its many forms, will be presented on Nov. 26 and 27 at Richard Tann's Nicotina.

"CINDERELLA" A3-1



CAST OF 10-MINUTE PLAYS AT NICOTINA. (From left) Ces Quesada, Adriana Agcaoili, Michael de Mesa and Ricky Davao.

BEDIONES. Special exhibition game.



JET LI and DMX in "Cradle 2 the Grave."

## Rory Quintos and Mike Lopez, then and now

By Behn Cervantes

**I** RE-ESTABLISHED the UP Repertory Company in 1973 as a way to bring back student organizations to the State University. By the early '80s, the group was already running smoothly.

Different committees were chaired by young students. Because the group was so dynamic, there were many applicants each year. The different organizational committees honed them well. The technical committee under Mike Lopez, now technical director of the UP Theater, was especially strong.

### Solid background

Being a product of Philippine Science High School, Mike had a solid background. He was an enthusiastic

mentor, so it was no wonder he had a dedicated group who followed his every instruction.

I would see them up in the rafters plotting the light plan. I would demand to know if precautionary measures were taken. A rather good-looking young girl in the committee assured me they were. She was Aurora Quintos, Rory to all.

### Quiet but efficient

Rory was a quiet but efficient member of the production crew. She was best on doing her best. She had no interest in acting. Because she was always in loose shirts and pants, her chum Nanette Logarta was thrilled to see her in a dress, which she reluctantly donned for a play.

UP Rep was fortunate to have Mike and Rory and even more lucky that they came at the time they did—and in such good company too! Their gang, made up of Nanette, Eric Pineda, Enrico Santos, Jon Santos and Rolando Endrinal, composed some of the bumper crop recruited that year.

Rory showed few signs of directorial ambition. Instead, she thoroughly enjoyed doing the

technical aspects of a production. So, when I did "Angkan," a series produced by Maria V. Montelibano's MVM Productions for ABS-CBN after Edsa 1, I asked her to be a production assistant. Lead stars Barbara Perez, Caridad Sanchez, Joel Torre, Daniel Fernando, Loly Mara, Lando Obach, Naty Grime Rogers and Joanne Garbosa were impressed by Rory's professional dedication.

She worked hard and continued with production work even after the series ended. Thereafter, when we would bump into each other, she would share her appreciation for working with the likes of Laurice Guillen and Lupita Aquino Kashiwahara.

After living in the States for a few years, I was told that Rory had directed her first film, "Basta't Kasama Kita," that was well received by both critics and the industry.

Soon after, she was to direct other critically-acclaimed films ("Anak," "Kailangan Kita") which were likewise popular with moviegoers, thus establishing her as one of the better directors of the local movie industry.

## Shark tales, good and bad

From page A3-1

### 'The Punisher'

D. Jonathan Hensleigh  
S. Tom Jane, John Travolta

The latest remake of Marvel's comic book vigilante is slow and tedious. But, Jonathan Hensleigh's version is much better than 1989's ponderously dour Dolph



JANE. Considerable acting chops.



BLANCHARD RYAN AND DANIEL TRAVIS. Topbill Chris Kentis' "Open Water." Lustigren starrer. This time, Tom Jane's chiseled good looks and considerable acting chops bring val-

nerability to the tortured psyche of Frank Castle, an ex-FBI agent who finds his perfect world collapsing after he witnesses his entire family "massacred" before his very eyes—the handiwork of mobster boss, Howard Saint, to avenge the death of his son, who was killed in an FBI sting operation that Castle headed.

Professional henchmen that they are, Saint's underlings wipe out Castle's every living relative, run down his wife and kid, beat Frank to a pulp, and leave him for dead. Problem is, he survives to "demonstrate" his brand of justice and retribution!

"NOLI" AND "FILI." Two of Ryan Cayabyab's acclaimed works.



THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Committee for Dramatic Arts, presents Ikatalog Taggo: The 2004 National Theater Festival on Nov. 7-20 at the CCP.

"Ikatalog Taggo" (Third Scene) will feature more than 35 productions and performances, new works and revivals, lecture series, workshop, exhibits, publications and other related activities.

"Ikatalog Taggo" will showcase Philippine musical theater, featuring revues, children's musicals, opera, late-night cabaret and events highlighting the achievement of Filipino artists in musical theater.

"Ikatalog Taggo" kicks off with an open house on Nov. 7, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at CCP venues. Billed "Pasinaya," the festival open house will offer free sneak previews of over 35 productions. The public is invited "to see all you can" on a first-come, first-served basis, free of charge.

### Gala events

Gala events of the festival include: "Hanas! Natatanging Tagpo Mula sa Musika ng Bayan" (Virtuosity! Highlights from People's Musicals) on Nov. 14, 8 p.m., "Buhay! Mga Himig at Awit ng Dulaang Filipino" (Alive! Melodies and Songs from Philippine Theater) on Nov. 12 and 13, 8 p.m., "Gilas! Pagdiriwang ng Opera Pilipina (Excellence! Philippine Opera Gala) on Nov. 14, "Tan Jin Children's Peking Opera Troupe" on Nov. 6 and 7, The Vienna Boys Choir back to back with the Lobo Children's Choir on Nov. 9, 8 p.m. at the Aliw Theater, and Philippine Ballet Theater's "Isang Bagong Binuin" on Nov. 18. Gala events will be held at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater).

"Ikatalog Taggo" offers an array of children's musicals in "Tanghalang Bulilit," festival premieres in "Tanghal," cabaret performances in "Huling Hirit: Late Nite Cabaret," singthroughs of works in progress in "Panday Awit," launches of CDs, VCDs and books in "Hayag," exhibits and tours in "Yaman, Musical Heritage," film screenings of musicals and opera, dialogue and interaction with musical theater artists in "Huntahan: Conversations with Music Theater Artists," caucuses and international meetings in "Pulong."

Festival participants include

artists from Muscat, Peta, Gantimpala Theater Foundation, Tanghalang Pilipino, Philstage, UP College of Music, Philippine Opera Guild, the Philippine Opera Company, Philippine Ballet Theater, UST Conservatory of Music, Artists Inc., Kaliwat Theater Collective, Tanghalang Ateneo, Teatro Adansari, Teatrong Mulat ng Pilipinas, Laguna Cultural Network, Lobo Children's Choir, Calbayog Arts and Cultural office of Calbayog City, Tanghalang Hulyo 23, Ayansa Inc., Araw Theater Ensemble, Dulaang UP Barasatin, Kalinangan Foundation Inc., Earth Music Foundation, Cebu Experimental Music Theater Company, Cebu Pop Music Ensemble, Children's and Teachers Theater of St. Scholastica's College (grade school unit), Cebu Independent Music Theater Company and University of Cebu and Minduan Inc.

### Season

The festival will have an associate season in 2005 in different areas of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao featuring major theater groups of the region such as Sinug Kambayaka Ensemble of Marawi, Dap-Ayan Ti Kultura (Ilo Kordilyera, CBTG Bukawel Performing Arts of Sorsogon, Lusong Theater Network, University of San Agustin, Colegio Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, Silay Community Theater Group, Cebu Theater Consortium, West Negros College, Cebu Independent Music Theater Company and University of Cebu and Mindulani Inc.

Move-over performances and festival events will also be held at the College of St. Benilde, St. Scholastica's College, GSIS and Aliw Theaters.

"Ikatalog Taggo" aims to advance excellence and professionalism in artistic skills, production systems, and technical proficiency in music theater; conserve, support and promote musical theater works and cultural activities significant to Philippine cultural heritage and identity; bolster and broaden public participation in Philippine music theater; stimulate the development of music theater arts as a viable industry; establish and strengthen linkages with local, regional and international organizations.

Call 832-1125 loc. 1606-1607, 832-1125 loc. 1800-1806, or visit the festival website at [www.culturalcenter.gov.ph/ntf](http://www.culturalcenter.gov.ph/ntf).





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### MONTAGE

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### 'Cradle 2 the Grave'

Jet Li and rap artist DMX's starrer, "Cradle 2 the Grave," an explosive fusion of Eastern martial arts and Western street culture, will be shown on HBO at 9 p.m. on Oct. 9.

DMX's character is hired to steal a cache of priceless black diamonds from a vault. After the heist, however, his employer turns up dead and other people want a piece of the action. One of them is Jet Li's character, a Taiwanese government agent, with whom DMX comes to blows.

### 'Ten Times Ten'

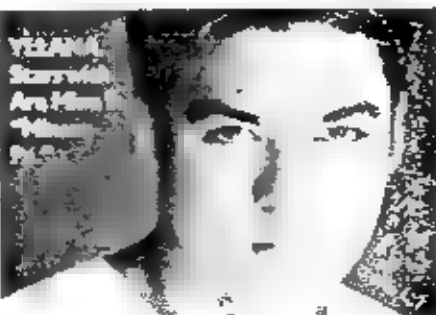
"Ten Times Ten," a collection of 10-minute plays about love in its many forms, will be presented on Nov. 26 and 27 at Richard Tann's Nicotina.

"CINDERELLA" A3-3



CAST OF 10-MINUTE PLAYS AT NICOTINA. (From left) Ces Quesada, Adriana Agcaoili, Michael de Mesa and Ricky Davao.

BEDIONES. Special exhibition game.



JET Li and DMX in "Cradle 2 the Grave."

## Rory Quintos and Mike Lopez, then and now

By Behn Cervantes

**I** RE-ESTABLISHED the UP Repertory Company in 1973 as a way to bring back student organizations to the State University. By the early '80s, the group was already running smoothly.

Different committees were chaired by young students. Because the group was so dynamic, there were many applicants each year. The different organizational committees honed them well. The technical committee under Mike Lopez, now technical director of the UP Theater, was especially strong.

### Solid background

Being a product of Philippine Science High School, Mike had a solid background. He was an enthusiastic

mentor, so it was no wonder he had a dedicated group who followed his every instruction.

I would see them up in the rafters plotting the light plan. I would demand to know if precautionary measures were taken. A rather good-looking young girl in the committee assured me they were. She was Aurora Quintos, Rory to all.

### Quiet but efficient

Rory was a quiet but efficient member of the production crew. She was bent on doing her best. She had no interest in acting. Because she was always in loose shirts and pants, her chum Nanette Logarta was thrilled to see her in a dress, which she reluctantly donned for a play.

UP Rep was fortunate to have Mike and Rory, and even more lucky that they came at the time they did—and in such good company too! Their going, made up of Nanette, Eric Pineda, Enrico Santos, Jon Santos and Rolando Endrinal, composed some of the bumper crop recruited that year.

Rory showed few signs of directorial ambition. Instead, she thoroughly enjoyed doing the

technical aspects of a production. So, when I did "Angkan," a series produced by Marín V. Montelibano's MVM Productions for ABS-CBN after Edsa 1, I asked her to be a production assistant. Lead stars Barbara Perez, Ciudad Sanchez, Joel Torre, Daniel Fernando, Loly Mara, Lando Obach, Natty Crame Rogers and Joanne Gamboa were impressed by Rory's professional dedication.

She worked hard and continued with production work even after the series ended. Thereafter, when we would bump into each other, she would share her appreciation for working with the likes of Laurice Guillen and Lupita Aquino Kashiwahara.

After living in the States for a few years, I was told that Rory had directed her first film, "Basta't Kasama Kita," that was well received by both critics and the industry.

Soon after, she was to direct other critically-acclaimed films ("Anak," "Kailangan Kita") which were likewise popular with moviegoers, thus establishing her as one of the better directors of the local movie industry.

## Shark tales, good and bad

From page A3-1

### "The Punisher"

Jonathan Hensleigh. S. Tom Jane, John Travolta

The latest remake of Marvel's comic book vigilante is slow and tedious. But, Jonathan Hensleigh's version is much better than 1989's ponderously dour Dolph



JANE. Considerable acting chops.



BLANCHARD RYAN AND DANIEL TRAVIS. Topbill Chris Kents' "Open Water." Lundgren starrer. This time, Tom Jane's chiseled good looks and considerable acting chops bring vul-

nerability to the tortured psyche of Frank Castle, an ex-FBI agent who finds his perfect world collapsing after he witnesses his entire family "massacred" before his very eyes—the handiwork of mobster boss, Howard Saint, to avenge the death of his son, who was killed in an FBI sting operation that Castle headed.

Professional henchmen that they are, Saint's underlings wipe out Castle's every living relative, run down his wife and kid, beat Frank to a pulp, and leave him for dead. Problem is, he survives to "demonstrate" his brand of justice and retribution!

"NOLI" AND "FILI." Two of Ryan Cayabyab's acclaimed works.



THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Committee for Dramatic Arts, presents *Ikatalog Taggo*: The 2004 National Theater Festival on Nov. 7-20 at the CCP.

"Ikatalog Taggo" (Third Scene) will feature more than 35 productions and performances, new works and revivals, lecture series, workshop, exhibits, publications and other related activities.

"Ikatalog Taggo" will showcase Philippine musical theater, featuring revues, children's musicals, opera, late-night cabaret and events highlighting the achievement of Filipino artists in musical theater.

"Ikatalog Taggo" kicks off with an open house on Nov. 7, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at CCP venues. Billed "Pasinaya," the festival open house will offer free sneak previews of over 35 productions. The public is invited "to see all you can" on a first-come, first-served basis, free of charge.

### Gala events

Gala events of the festival include: "Hanas! Natatanging Tagalog Mula sa Muslangbayan," (Virtuosity! Highlights from People's Musicals) on Nov. 14, 8 p.m.; "Buhay! Mga Hinig at Awit ng Dulaang Filipino" (Alive! Melodies and Songs from Philippine Theater) on Nov. 12 and 13, 8 p.m.; "Gilas! Pagdiriwang ng Opera Filipina (Excellence! Philippine Opera Gala) on Nov. 14, 8 p.m.; "Tian Jin Children's Peking Opera Troupe" on Nov. 6 and 7, The Vienna Boys Choir back to back with the Lobo Children's Choir on Nov. 9, 8 p.m. at the Aliw Theater, and Philippine Ballet Theater's "Isang Bagong Birum" on Nov. 18. Gala events will be held at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater).

"Ikatalog Taggo" offers an array of children's musicals in "Tanghalang Bulilit," festival premieres in "Tanghalang Bulilit," cabaret performances in "Huling Hinig: Late Nite Cabaret," sing-alongs of works in progress in "Panday Awit," launches of CDs, VCDs and books in "Hayag," exhibits and tours in "Yaman: Musica. Heritage," film screenings of musicals and opera, dialogue and interaction with musical theater artists in "Huntahan: Conversations with Music Theater Artists," caucuses and international meetings in "Pulong." Festival participants include

artists from Musicat, Peta, Gantimpala Theater Foundation, Tanghalang Pilipino, Philstage, UP College of Music, Philippine Opera Guild, the Philippine Opera Company, Philippine Ballet Theater, UST Conservatory of Music, Artists Inc., Kaliwat Theater Collective, Tanghalang Ateneo, Teatro Adansari, Teatrong Mulat ng Pilipinas, Laguna Cultural Network, Lobo Children's Choir, Calbayog Arts and Cultural office of Calbayog City, Tanghalang Huayo 23, Alyansa Inc., Araw Theater Ensemble, Dulaang UP Barasatin Kalangan Foundation Inc., Earth Music Foundation, Cebu Experimental Music Theater Company, Cebu Pop Music Ensemble, Children's and Teachers Theater of St. Scholastica's College (grade school unit), Cebu Independent Music Theater Company and University of Cebu and Mindanao Inc.

### Season

The festival will have an associate season in 2005 in different areas of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao featuring major theater groups of the region such as Sinang Kambayoka Ensemble of Marawi, Dap-Ayan Ti Kultura Iri Kordiyera, CBTG Bukawel Performing Arts of Sorsogon, Lusong Theater Network, University of San Agustin, Colegio Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, Siay Community Theater Group, Cebu Theater Consortium, West Negros College, Cebu Independent Music Theater Company and University of Cebu and Mindanao Inc.

Move-over performances and festival events will also be held at the College of St. Benilde, St. Scholastica's College, GSIS and Aaw Theaters.

"Ikatalog Taggo" aims to advance excellence and professionalism in artistic skills, production systems, and technical proficiency in music theater, conserve, support and promote musical theater works and cultural activities significant to Philippine cultural heritage and identity; bolster and broaden public participation in Philippine music theater; stimulate the development of music theater arts as a viable industry, establish and strengthen linkages with local, regional and international organizations.

Call 832-1125 loc. 1606-1607, 832-1125 loc. 1800-1806, or visit the festival website at [www.culturalcenter.gov.ph/ntf](http://www.culturalcenter.gov.ph/ntf).



# Ronnie and Mariz Ricketts host new game show

By Remy Umeraz

RONNIE Ricketts never says no to a challenge.

When approached by E-Plus in cooperation with ABC-5 to host a new game show, Ronnie welcomed the idea right away.

"I like the concept because it is something wholesome and clean, which my own children can watch. In films, I always drive a point. I am against smoking and drinking because I am a health buff, and I want people to be conscious about their health, too."

## Contestants

"It is the same thing with the game show. I will try to impart to the contestants that it is not the winning that is important. I want them to be good sports, although wala na-



THE RICKETTS. Never say no to challenges.

mag unwing luhaan sa aming games," he says.

The 30-minute show, "Fans Day, Fun Day," starts on an upbeat note as contestants display their top-notch talents in a dance showdown.

Ronnie is joined by his wife Mariz, who is excited about the outcome of their new endeavor. This marks the first time for the couple to host a show together.

Providing the laughs are Dinky Doo and Patricia Ysmael. Some of the uninteresting games featured are:

"Tawa ng Tawa," a non-stop laughter formula using a giant cube and funny instructions.

"Bulag-Bola" requires shooting hoops in "headless chicken" fashion, complete with blindfold.

A fun version of "Jack and Stone," a tradi-

tional favorite.

"Aero-Ball," a new craze involving jump ball or basketball.

"Catch a Prize" will test how quick a contestant's reflexes are as he gathers prize scrolls in a windy room.

## Giant jigsaw puzzle

"Taru Lets" leads you to the other side of a giant jigsaw puzzle. You win by answering some tricky questions.

"Meron Kwentos" is a quick math quiz with a twist.

"We made sure the games are simple, although the questions can be tricky. The four games that will click most will be featured regularly," Ronnie shares.

The newest game in town hits TV sets from Monday to Friday at 11:30 in the morning on ABC-5.

## 'Cinderella' at Dreamscape

Garden Pavilion, Rotas Blvd., Pasay City

The presentation stars Michael de Mesa, Rickey Davao, Bodjie Pascua, Alma Concepcion, Richard Signey, Evelyn Cabayan, Miguel Vasquez and Adriana Agcaoili. Call 724-1762.

Producer Bibsy Carballo has been so invigorated by her new venture that she plans to hold a 10-minute playwriting competition next year, to be followed by a festival of 10-minute Filipino plays.

## 'Minsan Pa'

Jonari Ylana and Ara Mina star in Jeffrey Jeturian's "Minsan Pa," which starts its regular run on Nov. 24.

Jonari had to take a crash course in diving, and learn how to speak Visayan, Japanese and Korean for his role as a tour guide. Ara plays a conservative preschool teacher engaged to an advertising executive, played by Christian Vasquez, in his first non-sex role.

## Paolo plays badminton

Paolo Bedones played an exhibition game of badminton with Daisy Reyes last Oct. 2 at the first Partners Cup 2004 invitational tournament, participated in by business partners of Robinsons Land Corp. at the Asuncion Badminton Center in San Juan, MM.

At least 250 players participated in six categories of the tournament, which offered handsome prizes, trophies and medals to the winners.

## Movies on TV

On HBO, Oct. 9 at 2:15 a.m., "Avril Lavigne: Thy and Shaz Me Up 'Tuz" Oct. 10 at 8:15 p.m., HBO Original

Series, "Carnivale" Episode 1, "Willey" Oct. 11 at 4 p.m., "Epoch Evolution" Oct. 12 at 10:30 p.m., "Carnivale," Episode 2, "After the Ball is Over" Oct. 13 at 11 p.m., "Minsky Report" Oct. 14 at 2 p.m., "Hawkins of Women" Oct. 15 at 12:45 p.m., "Analyze That"

On Cinemas, Oct. 9 at 7:15 p.m., "Changing

Lanes" Oct. 10 at 3:45 p.m., "Batman Returns" Oct. 11 at 3 p.m., "Punny Girl" Oct. 12 at 12:15 p.m., "Sudden Terror: The Hijacking of School Bus No. 17" Oct. 13 at 6:30 a.m., "A Death in the Family" Oct. 14 at 5:30 p.m., "Meeting Venus" Oct. 15 at 8:15 a.m., "Born on the Fourth of July"

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# Follow-up album is an unequivocal success

By Noelani Torre

**C**ONTRARY to their own moniker, there are more than a few grains of the sweet stuff in Sugarfree's sophomore album "Dramachine" (EMI). A follow-up to their highly successful debut, "Sa Wakas," this 12-song disc explores the same emotional territory in the same expected guitar and melody-driven style—but there are enough differences between the two to keep things interesting.

In "Dramachine" we can still hear the melancholy-tinged romance that so charmed fans and critics alike in the first album, but the sadness here has been tempered by humor and a philosophical acceptance that is no less affecting.

2003's Best New Artist and Album of the Year Winner at NU 107's Rock Awards, Sugarfree has been enjoying a very busy year—and it's bound to get busier now that their newest release has been hailed as an unequivocal success. It's quite impressive, in fact, that they were able to record something as accomplished as this album in a relatively short time, and hot on the heels of the first.

## Pressure

The fact that "Sa Wakas" has done so well must have added to the pressure. After all, it's the second album that tells people whether a group has follow-through capabilities. With "Dramachine," Ebe Dancel (vocals, guitars), Jal Taguibao (bass), and Mitch Singson (drums) have shown us that Sugarfree is much more than a one-trick pony.

The album's first single, "Sinta," has become a mainstay in practically every radio station's playlist in the past few weeks, a testament to the band's widespread appeal. The album is generally radio-friendly, and some of the other songs here are probably going to hit the airwaves soon as well.

This knack for crafting highly listenable songs is one of the band's greatest strengths. It isn't only the melodies that are catchy; in their best songs, the lyrics also reverberate with an engaging honesty that draws listeners in and elicits their empathy.

## Musical talent

Of course, the other big factor in ensuring listener enjoyment is the band's musical talent. Dancel's smooth vocals dominate, but Taguibao and Singson are no mere accompanists. They infuse their songs with a rock flavor that energizes the heavily introspective subject matter.

The album's illustrious production team—former Eraserheads Buddy Zabala and Raimund Marasigan—also contributed to the more polished and technicalized feel of "Dramachine."

Our favorites in the tracklist would include "Haring Sablay" and the title track. The former is a ruefully self-deprecating number with an infectious chorus, and the latter takes a wry look at life's tearful dramas—"Di nya lang napapanasin.../ Umaandar ang kanyang dramachine"—which is more or less what the album is about.

The Sugarfree of "Dramachine" sound even better than that of "Sa Wakas." If this trend continues, their third album will really be something to look forward to.

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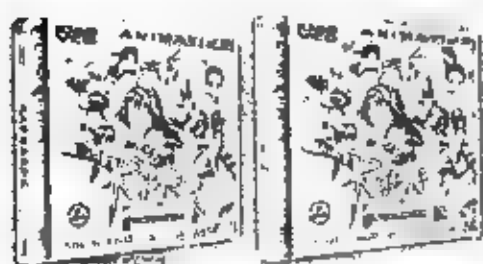
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# SATURDAY Special

## FPJ is back in harness

By Nestor U. Torre

**D**ESPITE a particularly hectic work schedule last Sept. 24, we made it a point to be present at the blessing of Mowel-fund's new mini-theater, preview room and multi-purpose hall. We were glad we did because the occasion turned out to be the first public appearance of film icon Fernando Poe Jr. after his presidential bid.

The movie industry leaders present were honored when FPJ arrived. They were pleased to see that he appeared to have fully recovered from the contentious campaign and elections, and was back in tip-top form.

### New trend

Before Ronnie arrived, his wife Susan Rocas sat at our table, and she and Film Development Council head Laurice Guillen talked about the new trend of digital filmmaking.

Susan was interested in the equipment involved, and Laurice shared some specifics. When Ronnie joined us, Susan filled him in on what we were talking about, and he also expressed keen interest in the new technology.

Before long, Mother Lily and other producers joined our table, and the pros and cons of digital filmmaking were thoroughly discussed.

Beyond the movie shop talk, however, the event was made even more special by Ronnie and Susan's appearance. Their film colleagues were happy to see that filmdom's first couple appeared to hold no grudge against movie people (including some of us) who didn't fully support FPJ's presidential bid in last May's extremely fractious polls.

### Strength of character

Our admiration for Ronnie and Susan's strength of character increased significantly



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because we knew how difficult it would be for anybody to not just recover from but also transcend the disappointments and perhaps the perceived betrayals of the presidential campaign.

Time does heal all wounds, but we sensed that Ronnie and Susan have gone beyond simple psychological healing, to a renewed sense of involvement and leadership in the Filipino movie industry.

### Low point

That comes right in the nick of time, because the industry is in great need of help from its leaders at this exceedingly low point in its history. Ronnie and Susan can do a lot to help galvanize the movie industry's efforts to pull itself out of the slump that local movies have been in for the past five years.

Principally, the Poes can work to unite our sometimes contentious movie leaders and workers. Aside from vivifying the industry, Ronnie and Susan can also appeal to the

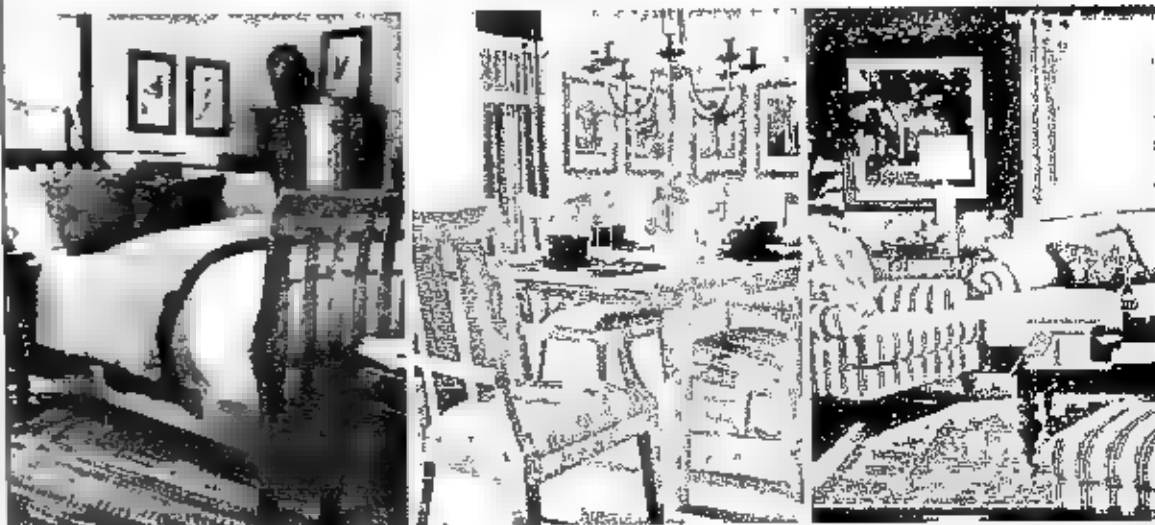
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## 'Hopes and Fears' walks the emotional middle road

By Noelani Torre

WE are not the first to say this and, no doubt, we won't be the last, but the music of the new band, Keane, really does sound like Coldplay's. That's not necessarily a bad thing—after all, the latter has also been compared to Radiohead. But, in Keane's case, the comparison is not always favorable.

It's unfortunate that they're breaking out into the scene at this particular time, because recently, there's been a veritable avalanche of Coldplay wannabes (Starsailor, anyone?) For many critics, Keane is just one of many bands looking to profit from riding the currently lucrative sensitive-rocker wave.

### Question

Setting all this aside, however, the question would be: Is this much-hyped band any good? Well, there's no denying that they sound good—soaring vocals, weeping riddles, and tuneful riffs—but, something always seems to be missing. And no, it's not a guitar (the absence of which is, unpromisingly, the band's most unique characteristic), but the one thing necessary for true success—soul.

Keane's debut album, "Hopes and Fears," is a pretty thing that walks the emotional middle road, and is a highly pleasant listening experience. Beneath all the admittedly tasty ear candy, however, is—nothing in particular. It may look and sound like a duck, but it's no flesh and blood creature. And the heart it claims to wear on its sleeve doesn't seem to be beating.

This may sound harsh, but we came to this conclusion after more



KEANE. There's no denying they sound good.

than a few repeated listens to the 11-song disk.

We were quite impressed when we first listened to "Hopes and Fears." After all, what's not to like? Vocalist Tom Chaplin sings like your quintessential angelic schoolboy, pianist Tim Rice-Oxley plays with just the right degree of melancholy, and drummer Richard Hughes does a good enough grounding job. We aren't saying that these guys aren't talented. Far from it.

Neither are we saying that you can only convey emotion through wailing and gnashing of teeth. Cool and subtle can do the job more effectively, but there's a big difference between the chilled out but compelling anguish of Radiohead's "Street Spirit (Fade Out)" ("Cracked eggs, dead birds scream as they fight for life") and Keane's well-intentioned but unsatisfying "Everything Changes" ("You're gone from here/ Soon you will disappear/ Fading into beautiful light"). Comparisons are unfortunately inevitable, especially since Keane's

background bears some resemblance to its predecessors and contemporaries (mainly white, middle-class, and British). And though the band takes great pains to point out that there's something unusual about them (the no-guitar thing), it doesn't really make much of a difference.

### Flawless

Still, the production is flawless, the sentiments are universal enough to appeal to anyone, and the songs are so hook-infested (check out the hit single, "Somewhere Only We Know") that you'll find yourself humming along even if you don't want to. This may be enough to satisfy most people (and judging by the sales and the audience reaction, it is), but we're not sure whether they'll still be hot after the next big thing comes along.

If we've been a little hard on them, it's because we hate to see talent go to waste. So, let's hope Keane finds where their heart is—before their newly-won fans discover that it's been missing all along.

## 'Maid in Singapore' is touching and compelling

By Rito P. Asilo

ONE of the jarring images you'll see in Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.'s poignant documentary, "Maid in Singapore," which is scheduled for exhibition at the 9th Pusan International Film Festival in Korea this week, is that of a poster containing mug shots of smiling Pinays raring to find employment in the Lion City.

In that prosperous city-state alone, as Del Mundo notes in the beginning of the film, there are 70,000 Filipino women who work as domestic helpers (DH).

For the bulk of its running time, "Maid in Singapore" examines the paths trod by three women, Myla Mejia, Victoria Abril and Nanvidad "Bing" Diaz, who are forced by dire circumstances to leave their poverty-stricken families in the Philippines to work as maids in a more progressive, foreign land.

### Beauty contest

The father of 25-year-old Myla passed away when she was nine years old. She started working at an early age to help support seven siblings. Her stint as a maid in Singapore opened up opportunities that her homeland couldn't give her. She joined—and won—a beauty contest, and soon found love.

Victoria, 29, left the Philippines nine years ago as a tourist. When she arrived in Singapore, she applied as a DH and ended up working for a Chinese couple. But, her male employer couldn't keep his hands to himself. She was transferred to another employer to tend to a terminally ill cancer patient who, in moments of extreme pain, would berate her.

Abril recalled, "I couldn't stand the insults. Growing up poor is not a matter of choice, I was born into it. I didn't want to leave my family to serve strangers."

During one lucid moment, the sick woman apologized and expressed her frustration at not being able to see her children grow up. When the woman died, Vicky was sent to a British family, who treated her well. After five years, her kind employers returned to Eng-



DEL MUNDO. Timely reminder.

land for good, but left her a parting gift—\$55,000!

### Adulterous husband

Bing, 47, on the other hand, had to leave Zamboanga after her adulterous husband deserted her and their four kids. With only P80 in her pocket, she came to Manila to work as a maid on a P150 salary for nine years.

Her daily routine as an all-around maid in Singapore is tedious. With a bitter smile,

she wistfully said, "I've been working non-stop for almost 20 years, but I have not saved a cent. I feel so helpless. I don't know what the future has in store for me because the Philippines has not gotten better."

Myla, Vicky and Bing are just three of the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos who leave the Philippines to work in foreign lands, because their country couldn't provide better lives for them and their families.

The film's narrative is aided by Balag-tasan-type poetry that moves, touches and occasionally pokes fun at the social ills of our beleaguered country—a though, we have to admit that our attention wavered when those scenes became gratingly repetitive.

### Unforgettable films

Del Mundo, who wrote the screenplay of unforgettable films like "Kusapmata," "Maynila Sa Mga Kuko ng Lwanag," "Bayaning Third World" and "Batch '81," spins his relevant yarn with objective detachment, and keeps things untinged by sentiment despite the subject matter being fodder for melodrama, thus making the viewing experience more involving. He lets his subjects and their tales do the talking.

In less efficient, more manipulative hands these women's lives would have easily turned into mushy, against-the-odds survival stories rather than the searing and touching social commentaries that they are. Del Mundo's documentary is a timely albeit scathing reminder to a government that needs to get its act together for the sake of its people.

## Cooked to perfection

FOOD trends have changed drastically over the years, as people have gotten busier and now have less time to cook good and healthy meals for themselves.

A few years back, my mom Nora told me to look into making cooked and frozen foods. She felt it was the trend of the future. She was right. In San Francisco, I noticed they had everything—sandwiches, pizza pockets and chicken cordon bleu, frozen and simply popped into the microwave.

Today, in the Philippines, groceries are loaded with frozen and ready-to-eat dishes. You can even get canned *ulam* like *sisig*, *adobo* and *lunag*.

### New venture

My brother Bong has joined the bandwagon and come up with something of his own. Backgrounded when BD or Bong likes something, he can eat the same dish continuously for months. Once, he tripped on the boneless bangus of Bangus Restaurant and had it with *adobong kangkong* and rice. That's where the idea for his new venture came from.

From this, Daza Delights was born. This is a steamed boneless bangus cooked to perfection, topped with a variety of sauces, frozen, then sent off to various groceries all over the country and soon abroad.

The very first bangus sauce was a creation of

### WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

my mom Nora. Bangus with Ala Viscaino sauce, made with olive oil, garlic, tomato sauce, fresh red bell peppers, olives and spices.

My contribution is the Curry sauce, Nina's the Teriyaki sauce. Other sauces are Sals Verde and En Tcho, both regular and spicy.

### Really good meal

At home, when I have hunger pangs, it is so easy to prepare. A few minutes on the microwave, with some rice or bread, you're on your way to a really good snack or meal!

Want to try something new, convenient, healthy and really good? Check out Bong Daza Delights' Boneless Bangus.

Happy eating! (Can be found at Rustan's Supermarket, Shopwise Outlets, Cash and Carry, Unimart, Landmark, Makati Supermarket, One Stop Mini Mart in BF Sucat, etc.)

Any new tips? Email me at [sandydaza@shaw.ca](mailto:sandydaza@shaw.ca)



FPJ (far right) and Susan (second from left) with Ng Meng Tam, Lily Monteverde and Boots Anson-Roa.

## FPJ is back in harness

From page A4-1

moviegoing public to resume patronizing Filipino films.

A lot of work needs to be done in both these areas, so the Poes' renewed involvement as industry leaders is most welcome. Some reformist initiatives have already been put in

place by the Film Development Council and the Film Academy of the Philippines, but Ronnie and Susan's help would still be a very valuable contribution to the local film industry's current efforts to reform and redeem itself. Welcome back!



# Radio assaults listeners' ears and sensibilities

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero

"ARE we happy with what we listen to over the radio?"

This was the kickoff question Ed Cabagnot, head of the Cultural Center of the Philippines Film Division, tossed to the audience, predominantly students, during the recent CCP "Sining Taktakan" forum on radio.

The panelists of the forum on the airwaves were Emylou Gaita a.k.a. Nicole Hysla of Love Radio (which is known for its naughty songs and commentaries), singer Grace Nono, Eric Maliwat, station manager of dzAS-AM; and Lourde Veyra of Radioactive Sago Project.

## Questions

Discussion centered on radio programs, their content, music, lyrics, comments and jokes. Then, there are the novelty songs "na hindi magandang pakikigay" as Irene Obligacion Rada of the CCP put it.

"Let's be realistic," Maliwat said. "They're hits because maganda ang tono, you can dance to them. Filipinos can relate to them, kahit hindi gano kakaunti ang lyrics."

The sexual innuendo and double-entendre of hit songs also came under scrutiny. We hear phrases like "Jumbo hot dog, kaya mo ba ito?"

Kung minsan nakakain ito," "Hot na hot ka ba?" And so forth.

## Broadcaster

"Ang lyrics, pag walang sinasabi, insalita para sa akin," teased a member of the audience, who turned out to be a broadcaster from Cavite. "The media has a moral responsibility. They should respect the real owners (listeners) of the airwaves."

Gaita said that when she first joined Love Radio, "I was shocked at the green jokes. I felt bad. But, I was told that there was nothing wrong with words like libog, kili-kili, puwit."

A member of the audience said that he was listening to Love Radio one day with his family. He was enjoying the program, until the broadcaster laughingly burst out, "Happy birthday, Pareng... hanwag ka nang magpakawit-dyami!"

## Student

A student asked, "Have you thought about the effect of this on kids?" To which Gaita replied, "That offensive statement has been downgraded already. Making kayo sa broadcast."

A few days later, however, while having lunch at a Cubao restaurant, I heard that statement again over the radio. Where is the KBP radio watchdog group in all this?

# Transforming...

So, even though Cannom used corrective make-up to soften the actors' features, a more subtle approach was needed for the rest of the face.

It was even a bigger challenge to find the right body paint to cover up the men's dark skin. Most of such applications look unnatural, or painted on.

Cannom explains: "When you apply a light color to dark skin, it usually turns gray. To compensate for that, we had to create something new, a mixture that we sprayed on the skin to fight the gray."

## First coat

"After applying a first coat of my product to seal the skin, we put the new mixture over that and were able to get a really light tone."

"On top of that, we spattered some fine freckles and tiny reddish spots to break it up a bit, and achieve a realistic-looking skin tone."

The first time they did the tests, Cannom was standing a foot away from Marion, who wore his contact lenses, make-up and wig for the first

From page A4-4



WAYANS' MAKEOVER. Bigger challenge to cover up dark skin.

time. Cannom recalls, "It freaked me out because there was nothing of Marlon there. It unnerved me, I've never had that reaction before—so, I know it had to be pretty good."

Then, the Wayan brothers met the film's financial backers, who were similarly bowled over. They marvelled at how completely the two actors had transformed themselves into white girls—with a lot of help from the production's make-up magicians. They trust that moviegoers will be similarly amazed and bemused once "White Chicks" opens in town!

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# SING GALLING

Reality Videotape with Ms. Peps Fernandez and John "Sweet" Lapuz

## MAMAYANG 9 PM NA!



**By Nestor U. Torre**

**WHEN** we wrote some weeks ago that comics Marlon and Shawn

Wayans were playing W.A.S.P. young women in their new film, "White Chicks," some readers wondered how the "impossible"

We asked around, and got the lowdown on the grueling make-up and prosthetic process they

had to go through to completely transform themselves, from black males to white females:

Producer Lee R. Mayers started



**MARLON AND SHAWN WAYANS.** Before and after the grueling make-up and prosthetic process.

the whole process by surveying past cross-dressing films and concluded that what "White Chicks" was bent on accomplishing had never been done before.

**No gender change**

Oh, some decades ago, there was a movie about a white man who passed for black, in order to understand how black people thought and felt. But, the "transformation" wasn't very convincing, and there was no gender change involved.

When it came to men pretending to be women, there were more examples, like Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon in "Some Like It Hot," Robin Williams in "Mrs. Doubtfire," and Dustin Hoffman in "Tootsie." But the male stars ended up looking like middle-aged matrons.

The special challenge in "White Chicks" was that the Wayans brothers had to pass for

young, attractive blondes. How to pull that "impossible" feat off?

Mayers firmed up his movie's chances by hiring special effects make-up artists Greg Cannon (who won an Oscar for "Mrs. Doubtfire") and Keith Vanderlaan.

Together, they came up with a new design approach, creating and testing different types of prosthetic devices before settling on those used in the film.

### First challenge

Canion's first challenge was to soften the Wayans' sharp, masculine features without creating flat, lifeless faces. Once that problem had been surmounted, he was confronted with another dilemma.

All the beauty-enhancing make-up tricks women traditionally use have the opposite effect when applied to men—they end up looking like drag queens!

### TRANSFORMING A4-3

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# BUSINESS

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## Palace vows passage of tax measures

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michelle Y. Remo

MALACANANG yesterday assured foreign investors that President Macapagal-Arroyo was aggressively pushing for the passage of at least two tax revenue measures before the year ends.

The Palace issued the statement in response to international credit-risk watcher Standard and Poor's comment urging the Arroyo administration to speed up the passage of eight tax measures meant to address the fiscal crisis that President Arroyo acknowledged two months ago.

"We are fully aware of the urgency of these matters and a timetable is being followed with vigor and political will," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Bunye claimed there has been a "strong consensus on specific priorities and broad confidence that vital measures will move up by yearend." "Our economic managers are working with

Congress in pushing our common tax agenda," Bunye said.

The government is hoping to get Congress' nod on the bill pushing for the indexation of sin taxes and the lateral attrition of government employees that would improve revenues and cut expenditures of the government.

S&P issued the warning as it noted a "renewed sense of urgency" among foreign investors who believed that the President's new mandate has not yet translated into swifter passage of tax bills in Congress.

S&P warned of a possible downgrade in the country's credit ratings if the government fails to implement its tax reform mea-

sures and allow National Power Corp. to impose a more market-based power rates. The government does not want a credit downgrade because it would only make debt servicing more burdensome.

The Department of Finance also downplayed threats of a possible credit-rating downgrade, saying the proposed revenue-enhancement measures of the Arroyo administration were keeping it in the right direction of averting a full blown fiscal crisis.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said the government's economic team was well aware of the urgency of making some progress on efforts to address the fiscal problem.

"They (S&P) did not say anything that should surprise us because the problems they pointed out are also the ones already being addressed by the govern-

ment," Recto said in an interview with reporters.

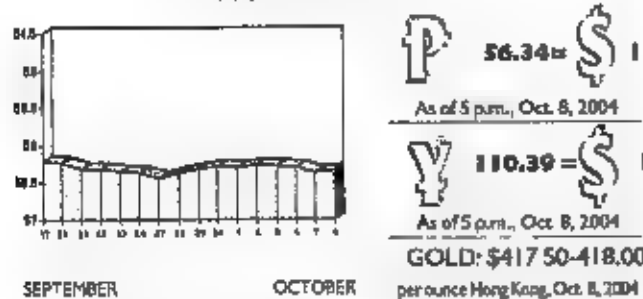
To address the national government's gaping budget deficit, which stood at P199.9 billion last year, and its ballooning debt, which has already reached P3.5 trillion as of the first half the Arroyo administration's economic team has lined up eight major measures that are expected to generate about P80 billion in additional revenue a year.

These are the increase in the excise tax on petroleum, the indexation to inflation of the excise tax on cigarettes and alcohol, rationalization of fiscal incentives, granting of a tax amnesty, implementation of a performance-based lateral attrition for government agencies, increase in the value-added tax rate, imposition of franchise tax on telecommunication companies, and the shift from net to gross income tax.

### INDICATORS

#### CURRENCIES

##### PESO-DOLLAR RATE



#### STOCK MARKET

##### Shares close 0.34% lower

SHARE prices closed 0.34 percent lower yesterday on profit-taking after oil prices hit new highs overnight and the peso slipped near to record lows, dealers said. They said Standard and Poor's warning of a sovereign ratings downgrade for the Philippines unless it swiftly passes required fiscal reforms also weighed on sentiment.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 6.21 points to 1,836.47 after trading between 1,833.74 and 1,844.20.

The broader all-shares index was down 1.89 points at 1,126.25.

However, gainers beat losers 55 to 41, while 48 stocks were unchanged.

Volume was 1.68 billion shares worth P1.09 billion after 1.59 billion shares worth P2.11 billion on Thursday.

"Investors concentrated on speculative second- and third-liners, and took profit on selected blue chips," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone rose P15 to P1.485 while affiliate Filipino Telephone Corp. fell five centavos to P2.70 and rival Globe Telecom lost P20 to P1.115.

Top-traded Digital Telecommunications Philippines rose 4 centavos at P1.62.

Bank of the Philippine Islands fell a peso to P48 while shopping mall operator SM Prime Holdings was down 10 centavos to P6.70. Ayala Corp. was down 20 centavos at P6.40.

## Corruption raps filed vs 2 ex-BIR employees

By Michelle Y. Remo

THE REVENUE Integrity Protection Service (RIPS) has filed corruption charges against two former employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue after discovering that they possessed undeclared and unexplained wealth.

RIPS, a unit of the Department of Finance tasked to go after corrupt employees or officials of revenue-generating government agencies, charged before the Office of the Ombudsman Jose Cesar Ocampo Simpao and his wife Elena Gesmundo Simpao. The male Simpao was a former chief revenue officer, while the latter was a former revenue officer.

Aside from the couple, RIPS also filed corruption charges against their accountant, Ricardo Ocampo Suba.

"The total assets owned by the couple are disproportionate to their known or declared sources of income," Finance Undersecretary and RIPS head Emmanuel Bonoan said in a statement. He added that the wealth was not declared in the couple's statements of assets and liabilities (SAL), which are required of government employees and officials.

Bonoan also said the SALs of the Simpao couple did not mention that they borrowed money from any financial institution to justify the acquisition of properties. It was therefore fair to as-

sume that the assets were illegally acquired, he said.

Bonoan said that record obtained by RIPS showed that the Simpao couple had acquired 115 hectares of land in Pampanga worth P10 million, and vehicles and houses in Union Village and Tierra Bella Homes in Quezon City with a combined value of at least P15 million.

According to the statement of RIPS, the three children of the Simpao couple also acquired real properties registered in their names even when they were not yet of legal age. RIPS failed to give the value of the properties of the Simpao children, but said it was substantial.

RIPS said the wealth did not

match the income of the Simpao couple. The male Simpao joined the BIR in 1972, and was earning only P3,000 a year. The wife, on the other hand, started as a revenue seizure agent of the BIR in 1967 with an annual salary of P3,108.

The Simpao couple and their accountant were the latest charged with corruption by RIPS, which have already filed several corruption cases against a number of BIR and BOC employees alleged of having committed corruption.

RIPS was established in December 2003 through the issuance of EO 259, as the government saw the need to give more teeth to its effort to curb corruption in government.

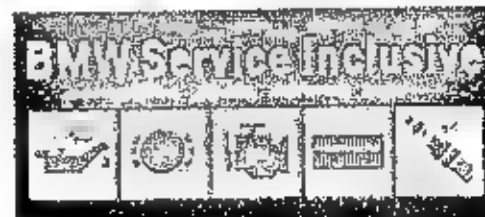
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## Raid down to rest

THREE officials of this cute administration of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo recently failed to get into—of all places—an unfinished, unoccupied building.

The event suddenly became big news. It was even worthy of media statements from the Palace, written in a tone usually reserved for matters of national security or presidential diet, whichever is more serious.

The building is the controversial Naia Terminal 3.

This is the object of several cases between the Philippine government and the contractors, namely, the local group Piatco and the German state-owned firm Fraport.

The terminal has yet to be finished. Front page reports in national dailies revealed that the guards at the terminal would not let the three big shots in, even if they looked like tourists.

That's the big news!

BUT before their surprise visit, where they were instead surprised, another event actually took place thousands of kilometers away—in Germany.

Officers of the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), the criminal investigation agency in that country, paid surprise visits to the offices of several companies in three cities.

According to reports in the German publication Der Spiegel, those German companies served as "consultants" to the Naia Terminal 3 project.

We all know that the German government would not just lay to rest the Naia 3 issue. It is investigating Fraport for alleged corruption in its airport terminal project in the Philippines. This was the reason behind those raids.

And the prosecutor in the case in Germany wanted to secure proof of whether Fraport made, er, "payments" to former Philippine government officials.

Can you guess who they were?

ANYWAY, what the German BKA did was really just ordinary "police raids" of the offices of those consultants. You know what? They succeeded! They got in.

Here, top officials of this cute administration could not even get into the terminal for an "ocular" inspection. Yet their failure became a high profile media event.

I really don't know what they hoped to accomplish with a mere ocular inspection. I also don't know what they actually

### BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III



know about the technical aspects of the project.

Speculation thus erupted, after an absolute government "failure" became big news, thus cute administration may be up to something.

Well, a well-known business figure is said to be brokering a multimillion-peso settlement of the Naia Terminal 3 cases. In the process, of course, he makes big bucks.

TO OPERATE the terminal, however, this cute administration has to invest about \$100 million more, on top of what it will have to pay the contractors Piatco and Fraport.

Such a figure came up in the report of the Japanese consulting firm Pacific Consultants, which this cute administration hired to evaluate the unfinished terminal.

The Japanese consultants, according to my sources in this cute administration, found a total of 42 defects in the building. Both big and small!

A good example may be the back-up generator. The original plate is missing. The plate should show the generator's capacity, as guaranteed by the manufacturer.

Interestingly, as against the rated capacity, the "new" plate showed a much higher capacity. But then again, could it have been only an honest mistake by the contractors?

ANOTHER honest mistake was probably made in the terminal's jetways, the tubes connected to the aircraft to load and unload passengers.

The Japanese consultants, based on my info, found that the contractors put, well, "used" tires on the jetways. You know—recap!

Moreover, if this cute administration takes over the terminal, it will have to deal with the boutique concessionaires.

These poor concessionaires already paid for their reservation, while the terminal was still under construction.

Nobody knows exactly how much those

people shelled out, but the total can easily run to the millions of pesos.

To top it all, they were mostly "friends" of the family that claimed majority ownership of Piatco. I just don't know if they are still friends.

AND that, ladies and gentlemen, is the problem. It is all about money. As much as this cute administration wants to open the terminal, it must also consider the cost.

After all, all of us taxpayers will pay for all of it!

Look, in the case against the Philippine government before the international settlement body in the United States, the German firm Fraport is asking for \$650 million.

That amount, to this cute administration, is way above the original contract of \$300 million, when it was first approved by the administration of Kuya Eddie.

How Fraport managed to almost double the amount in the original contract, nobody figured out yet.

IN HEARINGS held by the previous Senate on the project, nevertheless, a lawyer of Piatco admitted that he could not defend certain "payments" claimed by Piatco.

Among them were the "payments" to a certain Liongson, which were booked as fees to the man as... well, "media consultant."

They only totaled about \$2 million.

Documents submitted to the Senate also showed that, at one time, the "media consultant" asked for payment from Piatco for a certain government "approval."

How that relates to the work of a media consultant, none of the senators at that time could explain.

REPORTEDLY, a document of the money trail which Piatco paid to Liongson for being a media consultant, was submitted to the senators.

It showed that Piatco actually deposited a not-too-small amount in a bank in Hong Kong, the one known here as HSBC.

The money was deposited to an account under the name of a certain "JSP."

No, that's not Jose S. Pidal. The similarity in initials was purely coincidence. Interesting, sure, but still just a coincidence!

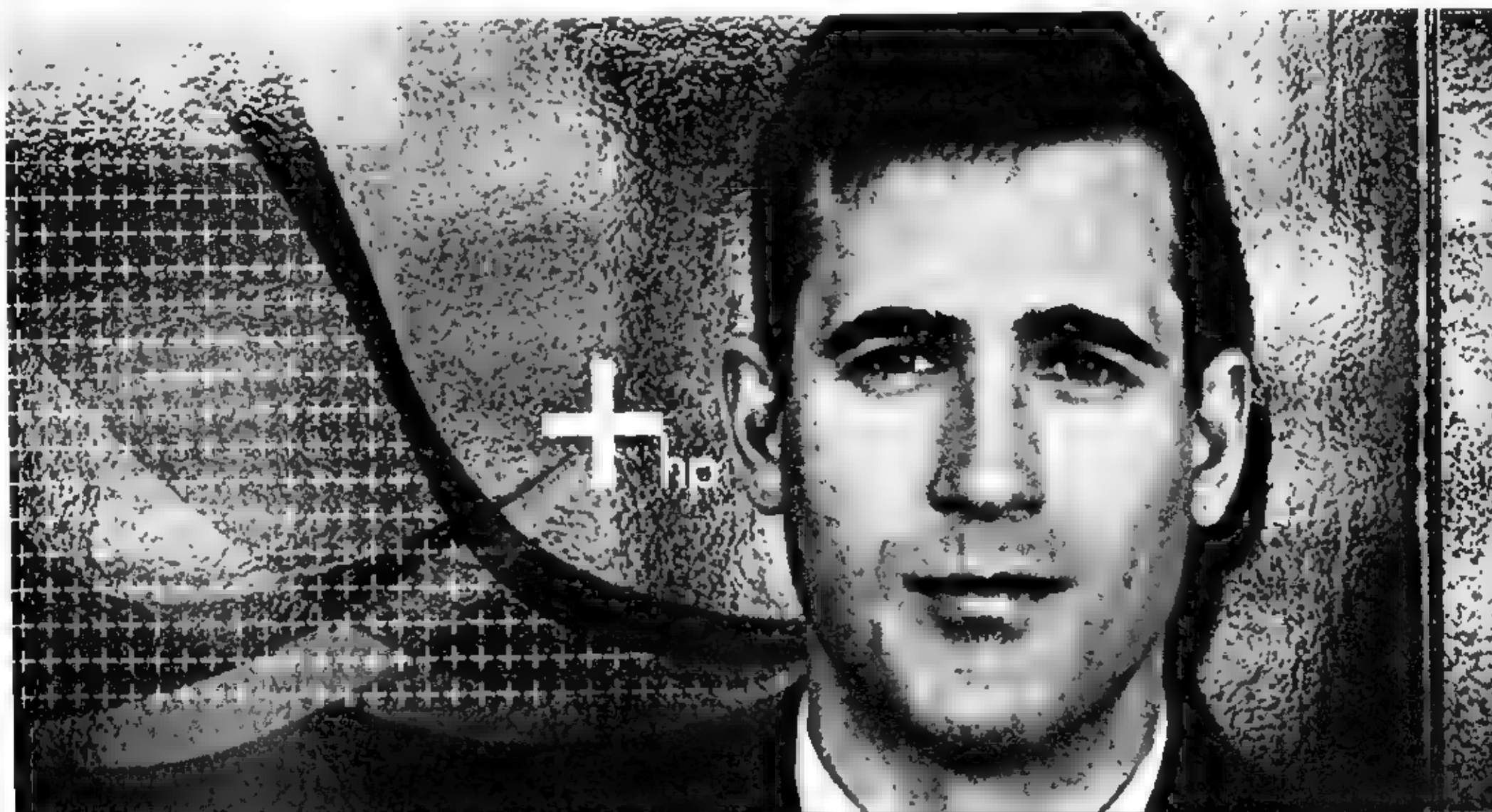
The account happened to belong to a company called Jet Stream Pacific.

### PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 8, 2004)

	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	
<b>BANKS &amp; FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
<b>BANKS</b>					
Philippine Bank Inc.	3.15	3.5	3.15	3.15	16,000
Bank of the Philippine Islands	19	19	18.75	18	35,400
Bank of the Philippine Islands	48.5	48.5	47.5	48	3,053,700
Chinabank Corp.	530	530	530	530	1,000
Chinabank Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	1,000
Equitable PC Bank Inc.	43	43	43	43	5,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	28	28.5	10,900
Philippine National Bank	23	23.25	23	23.25	9,000
Phil Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	3,000
Rural Bank of the Philippines	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	20.5	21	20.5	21	85,700
Union Bank of the Philippines	24	24	23.75	23.75	103,800
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
Bankard Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.93	100,000
Philippine Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Manila Financial Corp.	2470	2470	2470	2470	390
Phil Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	51,000
Sam Life Financial Inc.	1675	1675	1675	1675	290
<b>COMMERCIAL &amp; INDUSTRIAL</b>					
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	7,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.62	1.7	1.6	1.62	108,430,300
Globe Telecom Inc.	1140	1140	1115	1115	33,140
Isiart Info and Tech Inc.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.74	220,000
ISAT Communications Corp.	0.047	0.0525	0.047	0.0525	1,200,000
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.037	0.041	0.037	0.041	50,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	0.39	0.52	0.39	0.52	3,60,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	54,300
Phil. Telecom & Tel. Co.	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.7	8,242,300
Phil. Telecom & Tel. Co.	0.42	0.53	0.42	0.46	7,660,300
Transpacific Broadcast	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	20,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1475	1475	1475	1475	80,900
Transpacific Broadcast	0.71	0.72	0.7	0.71	6,130,000
Transpacific Broadcast	0.012	0.014	0.012	0.014	444,900,000
<b>POWER &amp; ENERGY</b>					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16.25	16	16.25	25,700
Manila Electric Co. B	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.75	32,700
Palayan Corp.	2.9	3	2.9	2.9	1,800,000
Palayan Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	125,200
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1	1.08	1.1	201,000
<b>TRANSPORTATION SERVICES</b>					
Phil. Container Term. Sv.	5	5.1	4.95	5.1	1,336,000
Maple Pkts. Marine Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.33	470,000
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS</b>					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	5,660,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	41,000
Sanitary Ware Mfg. Corp.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	130,000
Sanitary Ware Mfg. Corp.	2.6	2.65	2.55	2.55	2,801,000
<b>FOOD, BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>					
Atsika Milk Corp.	3.05	3.5	3.05	3.15	1,217,000
Gabon San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	52,000
Golden Foods Corp.	28	28	28	28	61,000
RTM Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.72	0.75	78,100
San Miguel Corp.	0.38	0.37	0.36	0.37	60,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	58	58.5	193,500
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	71	71	112,500
Universal Robina Corp.	9.5	9.8	9.5	9.8	192,000
Universal Robina Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,400,000
<b>HOUSING &amp; REAL ESTATE</b>					
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	2,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	54,900,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	37,000,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	5,882,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	4,800,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	5,100,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.031	88,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	180,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	12,080,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.007	270,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.23	0.27	30,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	6,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	150,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	3,620,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	2,850,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	1,800,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1,250,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	2.3	2.75	2.3	2.75	22,587,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.035	0.035	0.034	0.035	200,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.8	40,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	1	1	1	1	0.000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	4.25	4.3	4.15	4.15	30,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	369,500
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.18	0.17	0.16	0.17	223,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.07	0.07	1,000,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.7	400,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	1.88	1.98	1.84	1.98	465,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	2.22	2.25	2.22	2.4	4,030,000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.000
Alipha-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.48	252,000

STOCKS: B3



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Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, on October 8-9, 2004.

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per DTI NCR Permit no. 2053 series of 2004



# Where do you want your business? 2GO



# People, Events & Products

## Bactidol at Convergys' Health and Fitness Week

IN INDUSTRIES where communication plays a vital role, voice care should not just be part of the job rather an essential part of one's daily life. This is especially true for those who work in call centers who rely heavily on their voices to propel them and their company to success.

Ever in pursuit of actively advocating

its Empowering Voices campaign, Hexidine Bactidol, the only oral antiseptic recognized by ENT experts recently joined one of the leading call centers in the country, Convergys, in its Health and Fitness Week where seminars and lectures on fitness, role of antioxidants, stress management, voice management

and oral healthcare were conducted.

In support of Convergys' weeklong health and fitness campaign, Hexidine Bactidol samples were given away to help the call center agents take care of their prized tools in communication, their voices.

Since call center agents use their voices

to effectively do their jobs, keeping it in optimum condition is a must. But aside from natural home care measures that they practice, using an oral antiseptic helps maximize the potential for success of their voices. Not only does Hexidine Bactidol help cure sore throat, it also keeps the throat healthy and sooth the

tired vocal muscles.

Its recent visit at Convergys in the Philippines is but the first in the series of call center tours that Hexidine Bactidol will be having. Thus it can be assured that there will be more healthy, empowered voices in the country's booming call center industry.



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Labor and Employment  
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION  
Quezon City

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BE-BID

The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) is inviting all interested, duly registered qualified persons, natural or juridical, with core competence in the delivery of integrated and on-line information systems and solutions, to apply for eligibility and submit bid proposal for the "NLRC Case Management System (NLRC-CMS)" project.

The project is for the design, development and installation of computer-based solution and network systems (including the supply of hardware, peripherals and networking facilities and conduct of appropriate training) that would store, process and maintain a repository of all cases filed with the NLRC and its regional branches, such as critical case information details (e.g. nature of the case, parties involved, case status and case disposition details), adjudication reports, and searchable data base of all labor laws, rules, regulations and jurisprudence that shall be made available to authorized users online.

The approved budget for the contract is the amount of Thirty Nine Million One Hundred Two Thousand (P39,102,000.00) pesos, including the cost of internet connectivity, is sourced from the E-Government Fund (Sec. 68, General Provisions, R.A. 9208). The winning bidder is expected to complete the project in eight (8) months from notice to proceed.

All interested parties are invited to submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to, and procure the list of eligibility and short listing requirements from, the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) - Secretariat, Bidding documents, including the terms of reference, shall be made available only to eligible bidders. For any inquiry, contact Enrica G. Santos, BAC Secretariat Head, tel. no. 781-7871, fax no. 7467733; e-mail address: info@nlrc.dole.gov.ph or nlrcs@nlrc.gov.ph.

All bidders shall be subjected to eligibility and short-listing procedure approved by the BAC.

The determination of the winning bidder shall be based on the Highest Rated Bid upon evaluation of the technical proposal using the "quality-based evaluation selection procedure" and the Highest Rated Responsive Bid in accordance with the provision of R.A. 9154 (Government Procurement Reform Act) and its implementing rules.

Schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activities	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Deadline/Opening of Eligibility and Short-listing Requirements	Oct. 22, 2004	10:00 AM	6th Flr. Conference Rm.
Availability of Bid Documents	Oct. 22, 2004	During office hours	BAC Secretariat
Announcement of Short List	Oct. 28, 2004	10:00 AM	6th Flr. Conference Rm.
Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 28, 2004	10:00 AM	6th Flr. Conference Rm.
Deadline/Opening of Bids	Nov. 10, 2004	10:00 AM	6th Flr. Conference Rm.

\* Upon payment at the NLRC Cashier, 6th Flr. PPSTA Building 4, cor. P. Florante St. Banawe, Q.C. in cash or cashier checks, payable to the NLRC, of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos Only (P5,000.00).

NLRC reserves, for justifiable reasons, the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, refuse to award the contract, or accept the offer most advantageous to the government. It also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate/indemnify bidders for expenses incurred in the preparation of bids. Prospective bidders are required to conform and observe the provisions of Republic Act 9154 and its implementing rules.

(Sgd.) ATTY APOLLO X.C.S. SANGALANG  
BAC Chairman

NOTED:  
(Sgd.) Ambassador ROY V. SERRERES  
NLRC Chairman  
(PC) - Oct. 8 & 19, 2004

## LG Electronics introduces new image enhancement chip 'XD Engine'

DIGITAL leader LG Electronics reinvents home entertainment with the introduction of its revolutionary XD Engine technology. The XD Engine is the future's revolution in picture quality, a unique LG Electronics picture enhancement technology to create digital reality. With the XD Engine pictures has a more advanced image processing Base Coordinator to deliver brighter images, displaying pictures that are more accurate, brighter and no less than perfect.

The XD Engine also enhances the Real Cinema feature of the Plasma TV to avoid distortion, while Pixel Works transforms an analog image with low resolution into a high resolution HD image.

The Super Detailer that the XD Engine supports will detect and realize the most proper shade ratio by analyzing the image brightness continuously. The optimized shade ratio enables the distinction between the boundaries of images and maximizes the brightness, and therefore provides a higher detailed and more precise image.

With the XD Engine, the Noise Buster filters out the "noise" of an image with a digital comb filter, while emphasizing only the image signals. It removes the image noise completely by analyzing the data from both time and space changes, preventing the overlapping of screens or blurred screens.

And of course, True Color technology is further enhanced with the XD Engine to express life-like and natural colors more vividly, producing images so real, you might feel like you're being dragged into the screen.

Experience the XD Engine technology with LG's Plasma TV, DLP Projection TV's, LCD TV and the high-end Flatron models.

LG Wireless Home Cinema System

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but LG ups the ante by creating an audio system that could match visual perfection. The LG DVD Home Cinema System is a unique multi-functional home entertainment system in one slim and easy package, with five speakers and a subwoofer to provide an unparalleled 5.1 channel surround sound.

Stylish and sleek, the LG Wireless Home Cinema's speakers deliver crisp and interference free sound even when placed 10 meters apart. Using a 2.4 GHz digital wireless transmitter with 1,600 times/sec frequently hopping, the system eliminates messy and dangling wires in home theaters set up to fit any location, allowing users to create the ultimate cinema experience right at their very living rooms.

The Wireless Home Cinema System has multi-format compatibility DVD video/audio, jpeg viewer, mp3, CD digital audio, Kodak picture, CD recordable/re-writable, DVD-RW/+RW, Windows Media Audio and

equipped with progressive scan and digital tuning.

These wireless breakthroughs from LG Electronics are available in two models: the LH-W5100A and DA-W6100A.

LG Electronics Philippines was established in 1988 as the digital leader in Home Appliances and Display Devices by introducing breakthrough and cutting edge products in the Electronics, Information and Communications products arena with annual sales of P 2.5 Billion and employing more than 200 highly motivated and skilled individuals.

As a major player in the Electronics, Information and Communications products arena, The LG Digital Display and Multimedia provides core technologies for highly advanced digital products and is a world leader in Digital Display products including plasma TVs, LCD TVs and monitors, and digital high-definition Televisions (HDTV) and its Digital Appliances is a global leader and leading innovator in Washing Machines, Refrigerators, Microwave Ovens and Air conditioners.

LG Electronics' Goal is to enable the intelligent networking of digital products that will make consumers' lives easier than ever. For more information please log on to [www.lge.com.ph](http://www.lge.com.ph) or call the LG Customer Information Center at 640-2525, Text Service: 0917-824-2525, 0920-900-2525

### Memo tie-up with HSBC

BUILD your work to weekend wardrobe this fall season with Memo's incredible treat exclusively with HSBC credit card. Enjoy P250 off on regular item when you present the Memo discount voucher to any participating Memo boutiques located at Glorietta 3, SM North Edsa, The Shop Greenhills, SM Pampanga, SM Megamall, Festival Mall, SM Southmall and SM Cebu. Offer valid through Oct. 30. Get updated trends in casual work wear as Memo unveils a whole new range of looks this autumn season. This fall collection focuses on vintage inspired prints, cable knits and the latest cropped pants. Its casual attitude spells success and confidence for the contemporary men and women.



### Lourdes School QC hosts OktuBEERit!

THE LOURDES School of Quezon City (LSQC) Batch '82, in cooperation with the LSQC Alumni Association, invites all alumni, students, and friends of Lourdes School QC to its own Oktoberfest celebration dubbed "OktuBEERit!" on Oct. 23, Saturday, 7 p.m., at the LSQC High School Grounds along Apo Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City. Now on its second year, OktuBEERit! promises a night of jamming and partying. On stage are bands featuring past and present Lourdesians. Admission fee is only P50. For more information, please contact Abby of the LSQCAA office at 781-8475 or 0919-6094628 or e-mail [lsqcaa@edsaemail.com.ph](mailto:lsqcaa@edsaemail.com.ph).

### Parkinsons support group meeting

THE PARKINSONS Support Group of the Philippines Foundation Inc. (PSGP) in cooperation with Servier Philippines Inc. will hold a meeting on Oct. 10 at the Auditorium of the Cathedral Heights Building (South Tower), 14th Floor, St. Lukes Medical Center, 279 E. Rodriguez St. Avenue, Quezon City. During the meeting, there will be a lecture on the "Urologic Findings in Parkinson's Disease." Questions will be entertained by the lecturers. For inquiries call the Movement Disorder Center at (02)727-5552 or 723-0301 loc. 3101 (look for Beng or Mezzano).



### COLGATE SUPPORTS 'MGA MUNTING NGITI'

"Mga Munting Ngiti" is based on the WHO Basic Package of Oral Care (BPOC), consisting of (1) Oral Urgent Treatment - OUT, (2) Atraumatic Restorative Treatment - ART (3) Arrest of Caries Technique - ACT (4) Affordable Fluoride Toothpaste- AFT and (5) Oral Health Promotion (OHP). The integrated holistic approach of this program aims to address the basic oral health needs of all Filipino children by the interdisciplinary cooperation of pediatric dentists, the local government, teachers, barangay health workers, NGOs and multinationals. Colgate-Palmolive Philippines supports the AFT component. In photo are Dr. Elen Villanueva, oral health coordinator of Lipa; Dr. Noel Vallesano, PPDS; president, Dr. Angai 'Bong David II, professional relations manager Colgate-Palmolive Phils., Hon. Vilma Santos-Rocito, Mayor of Lipa City; and Dr. Cita Manuel of Colgate Palmolive Phils.

### PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

#### Invitation to Bid

The assets, consisting of two (2) parcels of land are being offered for Public Bidding in two (2) separate lots, on an "as-is, where-is" basis. Said assets formerly belong to Prime White Cement Corporation (PWCC) located at Brgy. Sta. Lucia, San Fernando, Pampanga.

Lot No.	Particulars	Indicative Price
1	Land (330 sq.m., TCT No. 574187)	P 165,000
2	Land (350 sq.m., TCT No. 574188)	P 175,000

Bids will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of bidders on October 29, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, PMO Bldg., 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Interested parties may request for a duly authenticated copy of the Asset Specific Bidding Rules (ASBR), Asset Specific Bidding Form (ASBF) together with the Asset Specific Catalogue for a nominal fee of P500.00.

For more information, please call Ms. Melinda B. Cortez of the PMO Marketing Department at telephone numbers 892-2145 or 818-4733.

## Stay ultra fit with Ultra Light

IT PAYS to maintain a good diet, exercise and a healthy lifestyle. Some set goals to stay motivated. Others change their eating and even work habits just to make a fitness program succeed.

But it was the influx of quick fixes that sparked off serious health buffs to seek help from a wide range of products made available. From diet, to low calorie to sugar-free, many proved most willing to try these healthful alternatives to keep those extra pounds for good. Even then, it was the low carbohydrate diet that generated a considerable impact not only in the United States, but in the other parts of the world.

Revered by famous celebrities, the low carb diet is said to be a simple plan to losing weight. In this scheme, carbohydrate intake is limited to less than 40 gms daily, thus prompting the body to use fat and protein for energy that eventually leads to weight loss. The popularity of low carb also found its way into beers. Topping the growth of light beer, low carb beer carries the "real" taste of regular beer. Carefully processed to lessen the amount of carbohydrates, it proved most appealing to health conscious who want to stay fit and still enjoy a nice cold beer.

Longstar Ultra is a low carb beer that boasts of 75 percent fewer carbohydrates than regular beer and 23 percent less carb than light beer. Undoubtedly, the choice beer of avid low carb followers and socially active men and women, Longstar Ultra carries the satisfying taste of their favorite brew but does not in any way affect their physique. So, get Ultra fit with Longstar Ultra Light.

Republic of the Philippines  
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM  
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City  
Tel. Nos. (832) 920-8401 • (832) 920-6448  
E-mail: [costanet@info.com.ph](mailto:costanet@info.com.ph) • Web site: <http://www.sss.gov.ph>

### NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF DECEASED	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEATH
1) Maria Arcena	Unknown	Vicente Arcena	July 12, 1983
2) Leticia Salas	Tayumbayan, Quezon Prov.	Ruben Salas Jr.	June 1, 2004
3) Lucita Alonzo	Kawit, Cavite	Sancho Alonzo	July 4, 2001
4) Ramon Capones	2466 Lupon Guinto St., Marikina, Mind.	Edmundo Capones	February 15, 2002
5) Alicia Casido	May Rosa, Encomenda, Zamb.	Bernardo B. Casido	September 21, 2002
6) Antonio Acosta	Ullang, Kalamayan, San Joaquin, Pinar del Rio	Francisco Acosta	September 25, 2003
7) Alfredo Uilo	2053 Inocencio Tramo St., Pasig City	Zenaida G. De Guzman	September 22, 2001
8) Concepcion Dale Cruz	Unkown	Pedro M. Dale Cruz	July 4, 2004
9) Federico Domestica	San Lorenzo, Paraiso, Negros Occ.	Gaudencia Domestica	June 12, 1998
10) Jocelyn Candiano	Unkown	Domestica A. Candiano, Jr.	May 28, 2004
11) Leonor Gasang	Unkown	Sancho H. Gasang	September 7, 1998
12) Baling Li Rios	Sta. Rosa, Leyte	Zacarias M. Rios	January 27, 2001
13) Jolanta M. Madrigal	Unkown	Jose Calanog	January 28, 2001
14) Florencia Andanar	Kayangan, Alibon, Cebu	Manila, Marquis	April 21, 2003
15) Jovita P. Mercado	67 Kapayapan St., Bagong Bana, Calapan City	Bernardo P. Mercado	May 26, 2004
16) Clara Batan	Unkown	Tomato Batan, Jr.	September 8, 2004
17) Estrella Reyes Paslar	No. 28 Lantoran St., Proj. 7, Q.C.	Juanita B. Reyes	August 7, 2003
18) Maciel B. Plaza	Brgy. Dalg, Sila, Kuluha, Cansao, Rizal	Rafael Plaza	July 11, 2004
19) Richard Rebutayan	Unkown	Carmela, 20-1400	December 30, 2003
20) Jovita P. Mercado	Unkown	Edmundo Mercado	May 16, 2004
21) Nida Rubin	Houston Plaza	Edmundo Rubin	May 8, 2004
22) Zamora Tula Santos	Unkown	Melvin Santos	April 3, 2004
23) Maureen Gener	1228 C. Gov. Forbes, San Roque, Manila	Amparo R. Gener	March 28, 2004
24) Emerenciana M. Sugabo	Gov. Alvarez St., Zamboanga City	Teodoro A. Sugabo, Sr.	June 8, 2004
25) Juana Molina	Unkown	Manila, Marquis	May 16, 2004
26) Publico Tavel	Unkown	Manila, Marquis	February 21, 2004
27) Norbina Tumbao	San Rafael, Isabela, Baguio Province	Manila, Marquis	April 28, 2004
28) Amado Cruz	Unkown	Manila, Marquis	March 22, 2003



## TBWA\SMP chosen 2003 Philippine Agency of the Year

TBWA\Santiago Mangada Puno was adjudged Agency of the Year for 2003 by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (4As-P) in its Agency of the Year awards night on Sept. 16.

Aside from bagging the plum Agency of the Year award, the 3-year old TBWA agency won in two major categories of the AOY competition, Best in Creative and Best in Market Performance.

The Best in Creative award was in recognition of the Agency's creative work judged by a panel consisting of head creatives from major local agencies. The creative competition also took into consideration the awards

and recognition that TBWA's work garnered in local and international creative festivals like the Philippine Advertising Congress, Creative Guild, One Show, New York Festival, Asia Pacific Adfest, Cannes, Media Advertising awards and London International.

The Agency won the Best in Market Performance award on the strength of successful marketing case studies for two clients, Nissan's X-Trail sports utility vehicle and Janssen Pharmaceutical's Nizoral anti-fungal cream, which were brought to market leadership in their respective product categories in 2003.

"The Agency of the Year award is

indeed a very significant win for a young agency like ours. Being that, and Best in Creative and Market Performance bespeak of TBWA's commitment to excellent creative work that builds a larger share of the future for our Clients. These awards are a tribute to our talented, passionate people as well as our clients and our supplier-partners," said Tony Puno, TBWA\SMP managing partner.

The Agency of the Year competition was established in 1997 by 4As-Philippines, an association of 68 advertising agencies founded in 1977. The award has evolved into the most coveted award for Philippine advertising agencies.



SHOWN are (from left): Manuel Villafana, Mehvin Mangada, Tony Puno, Billy Samson, Jimmy Santiago



August 27, 2004 • Le Pavillon

### TERIYAKI BOY NAMED MOST OUTSTANDING JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Teriyaki Boy Restaurant, the first fast-casual Japanese Restaurant, bagged the Most Outstanding Japanese Restaurant award in the 15th Annual National Consumer Awards (NCA) held recently at the Le Pavillon. Organized by the Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP), the award gives recognition to

excellence in product quality and consumer services. Photo shows president and CEO Bryan Tiu (4th from left), with CUP officials, proudly receiving the award. In a span of three years, seven Teriyaki Boy Restaurants have opened all over the country, the latest of which is found in Global City Market Mall.

## Platinum indulgence at Rustan's

FINE tastes and a discriminating eye are the mark of the Globe Platinum shopper, a refined individual who insists on timeless elegance and superior craftsmanship. From September 3 to 5, 2004, Globe Platinum members were treated to an exclusive shopping extravaganza at Rustan's, one of the country's premier department stores.

Rustan's flagship store in Makati was transformed into a private boutique where Platinum members and their guests had sole access to Rustan's luxury watches, jewelry, fashion and home merchandise, all at very privileged prices. Dedicated store attendants were on hand to assist Globe Platinum members as they leisurely perused the collection and made their purchases. And after a long day of lux-

urious shopping, the Platinum crowd relaxed and indulged in complimentary cups of designer brew.

The Globe Platinum-Rustan's Private Luxury Viewing is the first of many exclusive shopping events for the esteemed Platinum set, with the next private viewing scheduled from September 24 to 26 at Rustan's Shangri-la Tower. Viewing dates in Alabang and Cebu will be announced subsequently.

The Platinum lifestyle is replete with the trappings of sophistication and class. Existing Globe subscribers with a minimum monthly usage of P4,000 (excluding taxes and adjustments) for the last twelve months and with good credit standing are automatically qualified for Globe Platinum



MOTHER and daughter bond over shoes and Globe Platinum.

membership, as are new subscribers of a G-Plan or fully consumable G-Flex Plan at P5,000, P7,000, or P10,000. Enter the world of Globe Platinum and gain exclusive access to a life of elegance and luxury.

## Smile Train captures Filipino smiles

HAS the train arrived for a visit to bring smile and hope to disfigured children?

Smile Train USA is not actually a train but an international children's charity foundation dedicated to helping millions of children worldwide who suffer from cleft lip/palate. Since 2002, the charity institution has given back smiles to the faces of 537 Filipino children. This also means 537 families are now leading normal lives.

The medical and surgical operations and post operation speech therapy were undertaken by Smile Train through their accredited sur-

geons in selected hospitals in the NCR.

Unlike other charity organizations that send medical teams to developing countries, Smile Train empowers local doctors through free training, equipment and financial assistance. For this, Smile Train developed and gave free virtual surgery software that teaches surgeon how to perform cleft surgery in a fraction of the time it used to take.

These children are given not just a new smile but a second chance on life. With every smile, we bring hope and dignity. "Changing the world - one smile at a time" is Smile

Train's motto. PBM is the local partner of Smile Train in the Philippines. PBM is the oldest charity institution in the Philippines that gives free medical, surgical and rehabilitation treatment to children born with cleft lip/palate. All charity works are made possible through tie-ups with volunteer organizations and individuals including medical consultants, doctors, hospitals and donors who unselfishly provide financial and professional services for free.

For more information on Smile Train visit their website at [www.smiletrain.org](http://www.smiletrain.org).



### MOST OUTSTANDING ELECTRICAL WIRES AND CABLES BRAND

Philiflex, the leading player in the wire and cable industry was awarded by the Asia-Pacific Awards Council (Apac) as the Most Outstanding Electrical Wires and Cables Brand during its 11th Annual Asia-Pacific Excellence Awards held at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Photo shows Philiflex executives Leonardo de Jesus Jr. SVP (6th from left), Desmond Sia, VP (4th from left), Robert King area sales manager (3rd from left) and Manny Padilla, installation sales manager (7th from left) receiving the award from Apac.

do, Quezon City. Photo shows Philiflex executives Leonardo de Jesus Jr. SVP (6th from left), Desmond Sia, VP (4th from left), Robert King area sales manager (3rd from left) and Manny Padilla, installation sales manager (7th from left) receiving the award from Apac.



### THE CELEBRITY PLACE' GAZEBO FORMALLY OPENS

One Asia Development Corp.'s upscale project in Dilliman QC, The Celebrity Place, formally opened its gazebo for unit owner's use. Present during the ribbon-cutting ceremony are (from left): Sophia Nunez, One Asia's project manager; Evelyn Geronimo, One

Asia's senior sales manager; Bernie Aurelio, Riviera Land Corp.'s vice chair; Victor Manarang, One Asia's president; Evelyn Solis, One Asia's vice president for sales and marketing; and Edgar Llanes, One Asia's vice president for operations.

## Montalban to develop 400 hectares for homeless

BELIEVING that Filipinos deserve to have homes of their own in their homeland, Mayor Pedro "Ping" Cuervo announced that this eastern municipality is developing 400 hectares of land for the homeless.

Under the municipality's own Unified Housing and Economic Enterprise Development Program, which has already allocated to more than 3,000 homeless families in Montalban, the 400-ha housing development project is envisioned to accommodate thousands of families.

"This resettlement (400-ha) will more or less accommodate from 20 to 30 thousand families from blighted and crowded urban areas in Metro Manila," the local chief executive, otherwise known as The Builder to his constituents, being a civil engineer said.

The projected resettlement site in Mount Balagbag, San Isidro, Montalban, Rizal is a gently undulating terrain, perfect

place to start a new, better living.

"It offers no less than a cool, scenic, highly accessible place of abode, owing to its chosen location in San Isidro," the mayor said and "so with basic social services."

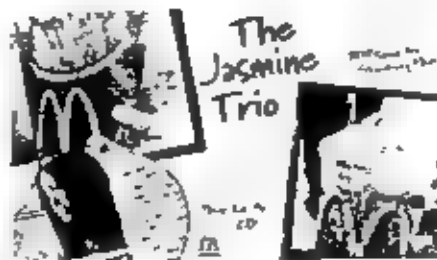
Mt. Balagbag is some 15 kilometers away from the town proper, or a 30-minute drive. Of Rizal Province's total land area of 130,822 hectares, Montalban has the biggest land area of 31,280 hectares. Montalban is also highly accessible either through Marikina City, San Mateo (via Batasan Road) and Ltex/Payatas Rd. in Quezon City, which shares Montalban's western side boundary. Home to hospitable and courteous people, Montalban takes pride in the now famous Avilon Zoo, which is visited by students on field trips or study tours and other historical sites like the Pamintuan Cave, which is perceived to be the place of refuge of the Katipuneros during the Spanish times.

## Product FILES

### Jasmine Trio Meal at McDonald's

McDONALD's thirst-quenching and lip-smacking triumvirate is now available at all McDonald's stores in time

for the arrival to the country of American Idol finalist Jasmine Trias. Dubbed as the Jasmine Trio Meal, this special meal includes Royal Tri-Strawberry Float, large fries and an exclusive Jasmine Trias CD featuring McDonald's "Love to" signature song, to be sold for only P65 at all McDonald's stores. McDonald's is the world's leading food service retailer with more than 30,000 local McDonald's restaurants serving 47 million customers each day in more than 100 countries all over the world. There are over 240 McDonald's restaurants in the Philippines and is currently expanding.



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### RLC FIFTH AVENUE PLACE RIBBON-CUTTING

Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC) launches the model units of Fifth Avenue Place in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its site in 5th Avenue cor. 21st Drive, Fort Bonifacio Global City Taguig. In photo

(left) is Kay Tinga, wife of Taguig Mayor Sigfredo Tinga, with RLC High Rise Division General Manager Dan Olagnacio. Interested investors may call RLC at 636-0888 or text 0922-8380888.

### AJINOMOTO PHILS JOINS BSU'S ACTIVITIES

As part of the celebration of Nutrition Month, Ajinomoto Philippines Corporation (APC) joined Benguet State University (BSU) in its various nutrition-related activities. Nutrigame, an exciting Quiz game which threw questions on basic food and nutrition. The winner of the game is Anthony Cayat, 5th year BS Agriculture student of BSU. Ajinomoto provided cash and prize items and product bags for the winners. Shown in photo are (from left) Pinky Yu, section manager Ajinomoto Cooking Plaza; prof. Jane Avila, manager, Food Processing Center, BSU; prof. Leny Ballewag, chair, Dept. of the Home Economics, BSU.



### SMART SUPPORTS NEOTRADE MAJOR BAZAARS

Smart Communications the country's leading cellular network supports Neotrade major bazaars as sponsor of the International Christmas Bazaar 2004 (Nov.30 to Dec. 5, PICC Forum) and the Wonderful Christmas Gift and Food Show back to back with The Great Christmas Toy Show (Dec. 16 to 19 at the Megatrade Hall 2, S.M. Megamall). Shown signing the contract (seated from left) are Tin Tin Jiboro, president of Neotrade Enterprises and Bernadette Ong, marketing events officer of Smart Communications. Witnessing the event are (standing from left) Czarina Liboro and Alexandra Paras of Neotrade.

















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OCTOBER 9, 2004

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## Message of Thanks

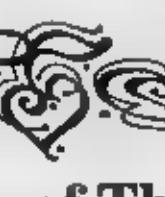
We, the family of the late

### BENJAMIN O. MORENTE

October 5, 1924 – August 31, 2004

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to our relatives, friends and all those who expressed their condolences, sent flowers, offered prayers and Masses, and who, in countless ways, comforted us in our time of grief.

May God grant you blessings for your thoughtfulness and generosity.



## Message of Thanks

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE

### Fatima Mahan Lee

OF JOLO, SULU and QUEZON CITY

Wishes to thank all our Friends, Relatives and Colleagues

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrow...  
For praying with us and for us...  
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...  
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...  
For joining us in our nightly vigils...  
For attending the masses and funeral rites...  
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...  
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our Sincerest Gratitude.

### DR. RAFAEL I. JIMENEZ

of Mary Johnston Hospital;  
Dasol, Pangasinan and Pasay City.

Has passed away on October 5, 2004 at the age of 55. Members of his endearing family: brothers and sisters: Arsenio Jr. and Merle Hemedes, Evelyn and Rey Trinidad; Imelda and Alan Paredes; Lydia and Jessie Alfonso; Robert and Boots Licalde; and Shirley and Pansak Boonpongse; nephews and nieces: Alfie & Lyn, Jay & Roma, Pam and Mikey; Len, Jing & Eugene, Ja and Andre; Jorel, Je-Ann and Justin, PV and Nikki; and Carl, grandchildren: Justin, Jaime, Isabel, Alyssa, Alyanna, Gabby and Arianne, request the pious readers to join them in prayers for the repose of the soul of their dearly beloved.

His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio Mortuary Chapel, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 10, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Whoever finds his  
life will lose it,  
and whoever  
loses his life for my  
sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

Our Dearly Beloved  
Mommy

### EMMA AQUINO LAYA

Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 71

Her loving children Lizza & Rodell Lapuz, Ning Wallner, Noemi & Bobby Narvaez, Monette & Michael Sandner, Kathrina Laya, her sister Julieta Aquino, her brothers Lito & Setang Aquino, Romy & Baby Aquino, Clemen Aquino, her grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Arapeta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later

### REGINALDO ROSAURO SAPALICIO

Devoted Husband, Loving Father  
And Grandfather  
— A Good Man

Went home to his Creator on October 5, 2004 at the age of 74.

His beloved wife Noning; daughters and sons-in-law Randy and Vito Aruta, Ocha (Bong) and Tito Coronel, Pie and Peter Wilken; grandchildren Jayvi, Arvi, Bea, Patricia, Paolo, Selena and Jack Perry; brother and sisters request your prayers for his eternal peace.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz in Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 12, 2004, at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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The Columbarium is designed to satisfy the growing demand of meaningful memorials that can house our dearly departed ones forever.

This project is jointly undertaken by BGT Infra & Development Corp. and the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. John. For more inquiries call 723-6494/723-7651/723-6335.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**  
CHD-MM-BAC-ITS NO. 2004-03

The Department of Health-Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM) invites all interested G-EPS registered bidders/suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of Environmental Supplies.

Bidding documents can be secured from BAC Secretariat at the Supply Section, CHD-MM, Acacia Lane, Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Adhion Hills, Mandaluyong City. Telephone number 535-4542 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00).

The Approved Budget for the said items is FOUR MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P4,500,000.00).

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the CHD-MM's action.

(Sgd.) GERARDO V. BAYUGO, MD, MPH, CESO III  
Director IV, CHD-MM

IPDI - October 9 & 10, 2004

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The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting qualified suppliers to participate in the Sealed Bidding for the supply and staggered delivery of:

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Bid Documents can be secured at the MWSI-Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSI Building, MWSS Compound, Kalipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, at a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 per set. Bid documents will be issued to interested bidders from October 13, 2004 up to October 20, 2004.

Bid Proposal shall be accepted until 2:00 pm of October 25, 2004.

For Inquiries, please call the Purchasing Department, c/o Clarisse Joy S. Gomez or Vlgie Salvador at Tel. No. 435-3366 or 436-0719.

(Sgd.) IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ  
SAVP Corporate Logistics

(PCI - Oct. 9 & 10, 2004)

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# SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang  
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## Can sniffing dogs lie?

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Per DTI Permit No. 2147, series of 2004

FIFTEEN years ago the medical journal *Lancet* included a brief article theorizing that dogs could detect tumors by literally sniffing them out. The authors of the original piece based their hypothesis on a story told by one of their patients, whose dog had detected a malignant lesion on her skin.

Since then, several other stories with similar themes have been told, although the veracity of these claims was never scientifically tested. Until Carolyn Willis of Amersham Hospital in England, along with colleagues from the organization Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and the Institute of Health Sciences, decided to find out once and for all whether or not it was possible.

Willis et al. were careful to point out that they were not trying to assess how useful dogs would be as another means of detecting cancer. They simply wanted to find out if dogs could be trained to differentiate between people with cancer and healthy individuals.

Their promising results appear in the Sept. 25 issue of the *British Medical Journal*.

Six dogs were trained to distinguish patients with bladder cancer from

### DISCOVER

Massie  
Santos Ballon



healthy individuals. One dog was a Labrador, four were part cocker spaniel, and one was a mongrel.

The dogs were pets of those who trained them. No effort was made to use dogs trained to sniff specific scents such as those in bombs or drugs.

Researchers have long theorized that dogs can sniff out cancer because of tumor-related volatile compounds, which give off a distinct odor, although not necessarily in large amounts enough for humans to notice. With the dog's exceptionally keen sense of smell, however, the faint odor might be as strong as ammonia shoved under one's nose.

For their study, Willis et al. decided to work with people who had bladder cancer, in part because urine is easier to collect and store.

Urine samples were collected from over 100 volunteers, a third of whom

were in varying stages of carcinoma of the bladder.

Half of the samples were used to train the dogs to identify the odors associated with bladder cancer, using activities like hide-and-seek. Researchers moved on to more difficult activities where vials of urine from patients with bladder cancer, healthy people, and those with conditions such as diabetes were placed in a row several inches apart.

With such range of odors for the dogs to choose from, the researchers hoped to give proof that when the dogs correctly identified a sample from a cancer patient, it was not mere guesswork.

### No cheating

Once training was complete, the dogs were made to identify cancer samples in nine separate tests. The people who labeled the samples were kept separate from those who laid out the samples, and they were in turn kept separate from the trainers and the dogs to make sure none of the participants could cheat.

A total of 22 samples out of 54 were correctly identified by the dogs during the testing sessions. This represents a 41 percent success rate, which is far better

than the expected 14 percent success rate if the dogs had simply guessed.

The four cocker spaniel mixed breeds each correctly identified at least four samples, while the mongrel only identified one sample correctly. ("But we still love him," his trainer told Reuters later.)

Because two of the dogs lived several hours away from the main testing site, they were trained and tested with dried samples. Researchers found that in general, these two dogs—one of them the mongrel—did not do as well at correctly identifying the bladder cancer samples. Researchers attributed this in part to the theory that volatile odors might decrease over time.

The study is like reading monthly chapters in a serialized novel: you want to know more but you have to wait to know what happens next. The results show that dogs can be trained to recognize odors emanating from cancers, but it also raises questions about the training methods, the breed of the dog, and the chemical composition of each cancer's distinctive odor.

We await the next study, and maybe this time they'll include pictures of the dogs involved.

## Coffee addicts take note

WASHINGTON—As little as one cup of coffee a day can produce caffeine addiction, researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore said last week.

"Caffeine is the world's most commonly used stimulant, and it's cheap and readily available so people can maintain their use of caffeine quite easily," said Roland Griffiths, a professor of psychiatry and neuroscience who led a review of 170 years' worth of studies on caffeine.

"The latest research demonstrates, however, that when people don't get their usual dose they can suffer a range of withdrawal symptoms, including headache, fatigue and difficulty concentrating. They may even feel like they have the flu with nausea and muscle pain."

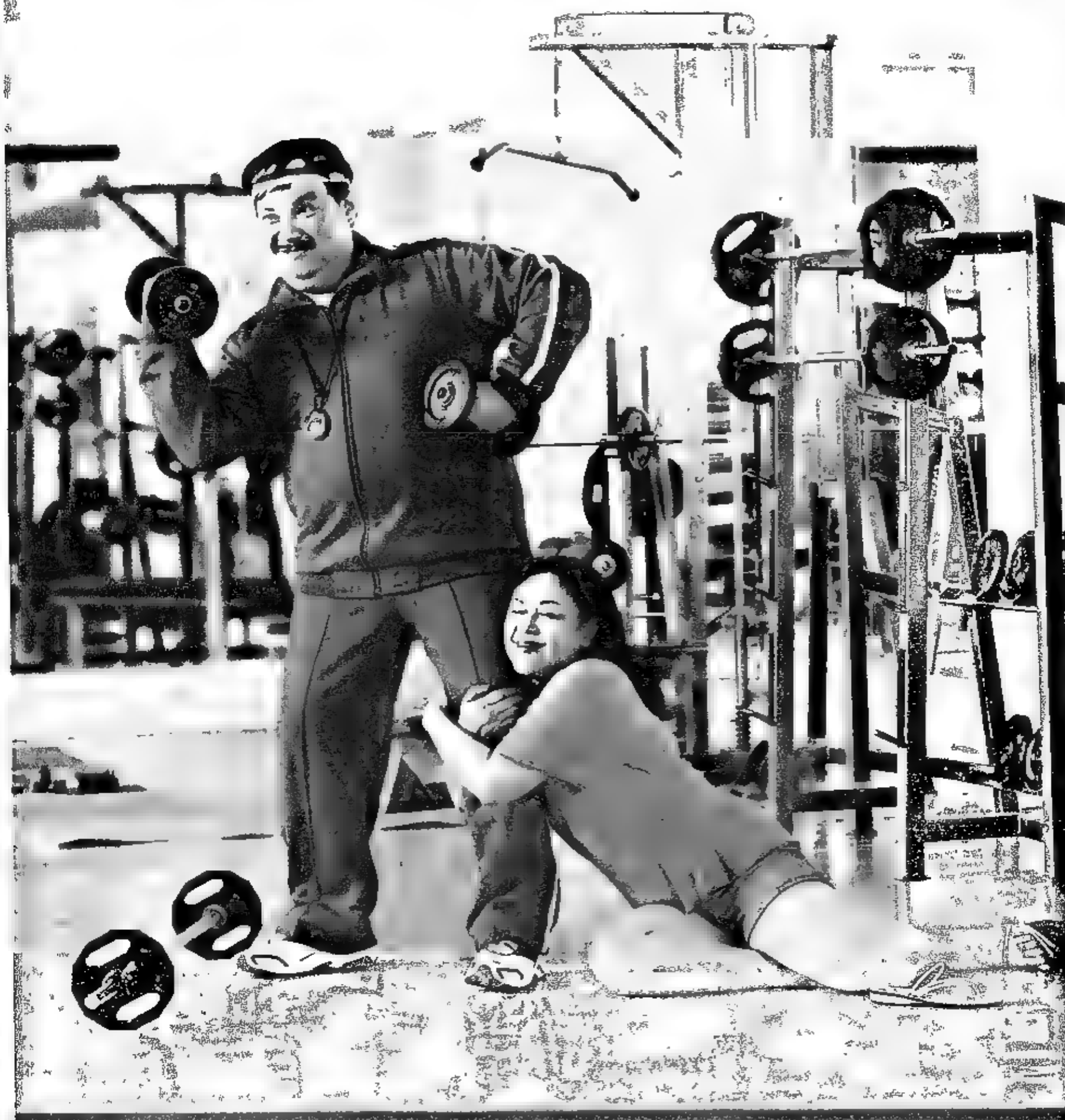
### Mental disorder

Griffiths and colleagues are pressing for caffeine addiction to be included in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, considered the bible of mental disorders, as well as other references.

He and Laura Julian of American University in Washington looked at 57 experimental studies and nine surveys to validate what any coffee drinker could have told them: missing that daily cup causes fatigue, grumpiness and often severe headache.

Griffiths and Julian said it was possible to free oneself of caffeine addiction.

"We teach a systematic method of gradually reducing caffeine consumption over time by substituting decaffeinated or noncaffeinated products. Using such a method allows people to reduce or eliminate withdrawal symptoms," Griffiths said. *Reuters*



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# Is it still safe to take anti-arthritis pills?

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

THE POPULARLY prescribed anti-arthritis drug ROFECOXIB (Vioxx) was voluntarily pulled out from the market last week by its manufacturer, Merck Sharpe and Dohme (MSD). The decision was based on new data from a clinical trial which had to be stopped prematurely because there were significantly more people developing heart attacks, strokes and other cardiovascular events among those who took 25 mg daily of rofecoxib.

The APPROVe (Adenomatous Polyp Prevention on Vioxx) trial was actually designed to evaluate the drug's efficacy in preventing the recurrence of colorectal adenomas in patients with a history of colorectal adenomas.

Colorectal polyps are feared to deteriorate into cancer.

During the trial, the risk of cardiovascular complications was noted after 18 months of treatment among patients taking rofecoxib.

I salute MSD for its responsible act of voluntarily withdrawing its product. It's better late than never, but for the thousands of patients worldwide whose heart attacks and strokes might have been triggered by rofecoxib, the company will have a lot of explaining to do on why it took them years to decide on this pullout. The risk for its cardiovascular complications has been quite apparent since four years ago.

## Early reports

In an editorial in the Philippine Journal of Internal Medicine that I wrote in March 2001 and in a separate commentary published in the Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences in April 2001, I stated, "The emerging and unresolved concern is that cardiovascular adverse events may increase with highly selective COX-2 inhibitors. Such concern needs to be further validated by additional adequately designed pharmacologic and clinical studies."

My main contention was the chance finding in the Vioxx Gastrointestinal Outcomes Research (Vigor) trial which showed that the rel-



active risk of thrombotic (due to blood clot) cardiovascular events (heart attack, unstable angina, cardiac thrombus, resuscitated cardiac arrest, sudden or unexplained death, ischemic stroke and transient ischemic attacks) with rofecoxib was 2.38 times higher than with naproxen, another medicine for arthritis.

This result was consistent with the lack of anti-platelet effect in rofecoxib.

I recall being invited then to lecture before several medical conventions in Asia regarding this issue. But it fizzled out soon after, until internationally noted doctors Debabrata Mukherjee, Steven E. Nissen and Eric J. Topol from the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio published their paper in the Journal of the American Medical Association several months later with basically the same conclusion that I had.

They said, "The available data raise a cautionary flag about the risk of cardiovascular events with COX-2 inhibitors. Further prospective trial evaluation may characterize and determine the magnitude of the risk."

## Low incidence

Admittedly, the incidence of these cardiovascular complications was relatively low, but for the victims who suffered the complications, this passive neglect could be unforgivable and I could imagine thousands of lawyers worldwide representing these victims, filing claims against MSD.

A new finding which might have compelled

MSD to withdraw Vioxx was that previously, it was the higher dose (50 mg) that was associated with higher cardiovascular risk. The prematurely halted APPROVe trial used only 25 mg of Vioxx.

But in fairness to Vioxx, the cardiovascular risk was only noted after 18 months of continuously taking the drug.

I don't think those who have taken Vioxx intermittently or only as needed to relieve arthritis symptoms should lose sleep over having been placed at risk in developing a heart attack or stroke.

## Other anti-arthritis drugs

Now the big question is whether the problem of increased cardiovascular risk is limited only to Vioxx or are other anti-arthritis medications also suspect.

Available data suggest that such risk is specific to Vioxx.

In fact, COX-2 inhibitors—the class of drugs rofecoxib belongs to—might play a beneficial role in preventing heart attack and atherosclerosis, or the narrowing of blood vessels.

COX-2 inhibitors might act similarly as the cholesterol-lowering statins by stabilizing the atherosclerotic plaque and preventing it from rupturing, which could trigger blood clotting inside the artery.

So those taking these other anti-arthritis pills like celecoxib, meloxicam, valdecoxib and naproxen need not worry as long as they're taking it as prescribed by their doctors.

## Meloxicam offered as alternative arthritis treatment option

INGELHEIM, Germany—With the recent announcement by Merck & Co. recalling one of the most commonly prescribed arthritis medications, Vioxx, due to cardiac side-effects, millions of arthritis patients worldwide will be working with their healthcare providers to review their treatment.

Boehringer Ingelheim said this development is not related to meloxicam (Mobic). It is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) and a selective COX-2 inhibitor, indicated for the symptomatic treatment of painful osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis. COX-2 refers to some chemicals in the body that cause pain and inflammation.

## Structurally different

Differences in the profiles of meloxicam over other selective COX-2 inhibitors are explained by the fact that meloxicam is structurally different from other COX-2 inhibitors and works by exploiting a greater degree of flexibility at the apex of the COX-2 channel. Mobic has been used by more than 70 million patients in 100 countries worldwide since first introduced in 1995.

The low overall, gastrointestinal and cardiovascular risk of adverse events was confirmed in a meta-analysis of 48 clinical and observational studies of 117,755 patients

treated with meloxicam and traditional painkillers. This analysis demonstrated a favorable gastro-intestinal risk profile for meloxicam with no indication of excess risk in overall cardiovascular, renal and hepatic toxicity compared to non-COX-2 selective NSAIDs.

## Alternatives available

"Patients may be concerned by the withdrawal of a drug they have been using for some time because of a painful condition. We are sorry that the withdrawal was necessary, but would like to reassure patients that there are alternatives available such as Mobic, which continues to be a treatment option for millions of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis patients worldwide," said Dr. Andreas Barner, member of the Boehringer Ingelheim board of managers. He is responsible for research, development and medicine. "In light of the recent news, patients should work with their physicians to discuss treatment options in their arthritis therapy," he said.

Boehringer Ingelheim is one of the world's 20 leading pharmaceutical companies. It operates globally with 152 affiliates in 45 countries and more than 34,000 employees. Since it was founded in 1885, the company has been engaged in research, developing, manufacturing and marketing novel products of high therapeutic value for human and veterinary medicine.

## Study bares blood clot risk in hormone therapy

CHICAGO—A widely publicized study that has already linked hormone replacement therapy to an increased risk of stroke, heart attack and some cancers also uncovered a blood clot hazard, researchers reported on Tuesday.

The study, called the Women's Health Initiative, found that women taking estrogen plus progestin at the strength once commonly in use had a doubled risk of venous blood clots, which can travel to the lungs and cause death.

The blood clot data, reported by researchers at the University of Vermont in Colchester, came from the study that involved 16,608 postmenopausal women between the ages of 50 and 79 recruited from 1993 through 1998. Some women received the hormone drug while others got an inert placebo.

The study found that the blood clot risk was highest for those who were overweight, and that a genetic disposition for clots as well as advancing age also increased the risk. Taking aspirin to thin the blood did not counteract the problem, it said.



"The implications of these findings may be important for the use of postmenopausal hormone therapy in the treatment of menopausal symptoms among younger postmenopausal women," the researchers concluded.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said recently that more research is needed into whether hormone replacement therapy may be safer for younger women.

The US Food and Drug Administration now recommends that women seeking relief from menopausal symptoms should use such drugs at the lowest effective dose and for the shortest time necessary. Reuters

## Questions from int'l elementary math fests

LAST week we looked at the stellar performance of our local delegations to two international math contests this year, both of them coached by the Mathematics Trainers Guild (MTG). In response to requests from readers who want to get a glimpse of actual contest problems, let us look at some questions which appeared in these contests. Remember that our participants are only upper elementary or first year high school students.

From the 2004 Po Leung Kuk 8th Primary Math World Team Competition, Hong Kong:

"There are nine fractions between  $\frac{1}{5}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  such that the difference between any two successive fractions is constant. Find the sum of these eleven fractions."

"In the following equation, each letter represents a distinct digit:  $7(ABCKYZ) = 6(KYZ-ABC)$ . A and X are not equal to zero. Find the six-digit number ABCXYZ."

"In a rectangle made up of  $2004 \times 4002$  square units, how many square units can a diagonal line pass through?"

## Thailand contest

From the 2003 Thailand 1st Elementary Mathematics International Contest (individual competition):

"M sold some apples and received an amount of money. If M had sold 10 more apples for the same amount of money, the price of one apple would be 2 baht less than the original price. If M had sold 10 fewer apples for the same amount of money, the price of one apple would be 4 baht more than the original price. How many apples did M sell? What was the price of one apple?"

"City P is 625 kilometers from City Q. M departed from City P at 5:30 a.m., traveling at

## EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

100 kph, and arrived at City Q. 15 minutes after M left, N departed from City Q and arrived at City P traveling at 80 kph. At what time did M and N meet?"

"Find all 2-digit numbers such that when the number is divided by the sum of its digits, the quotient is 4 with a remainder of 3."

"There are 20 red marbles, 30 white marbles, and some blue marbles in a box. If you draw one marble from the box, the probability or chance of drawing one blue marble is  $\frac{9}{11}$ . How many blue marbles are there in the box?"

"A boat is 50 km away from the port. The boat is leaky, so water flows into the boat at the rate of 2 tons per 5 minutes. If there were 90 tons of water in the boat, the boat would sink. If there is a pump in the boat, pumping out 12 tons of water per hour, what should be the minimum speed of the boat (in kph) to keep the boat from sinking?"

"A, B, and C worked together and received a total wage of 52,400 baht. A received 125 percent of B's wage, but 90 percent of C's wage. Who received more: B or C? What is the difference between the wages of B and C?"

## Team contest

In the team competition, here are some questions:

"On quadrilateral ABCD, points M, N, P, and Q are located on AB, BC, CD and DA, re-

spectively. The ratios of distance are as follows:  $AM:MB = 3:5$ ;  $BN:NC = 1:3$ ;  $CP:PD = 4:5$ ;  $DQ:QA = 1:8$ . What is the ratio of the area of MBNPDQ to the area of ABCD?"

"How many trailing zeros are there in the product of  $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 \times \dots \times 2003$ ? (Example: 10200000 has five trailing zeros.)"

"An uncovered tank of water has the capacity 43.12 cubic meters. The inner diameter of the tank is 2.8 meters. The walls and the base of the tank have a uniform thickness of 10 cm. If it costs 80 baht per square meter to paint the tank, calculate the cost of painting the total surface area."

"There are three numbers: 3945, 4686, and 5598. When they are divided by x, the remainder is the same for each. What is the sum of the x and the common remainder?"

"In a box of 12 different colored crayons, one of them is black. In how many different ways can the teacher give these crayons to a student so that the student receives at least one black? Note that a student may receive from 1 to 12 crayons."

"How many seven-digit numbers contain the digit 7 at least once?"

"The area of quadrilateral ABCD is 6174 square cm. Points E and F are the midpoints of AB and CD, while G and H are the points on BC and AD respectively, such that  $CG = 2GB$  and  $AH = 2HD$ . What is the area of EGFH?"

"Alloy M is composed of 95 percent bronze, 4 percent tin, and 1 percent zinc. Alloy N is composed of bronze in equal proportion. If alloy M is mixed with alloy N in the proportion, a new alloy is formed, which has 86 percent bronze, 13.6 percent tin, and 0.4 percent zinc. What is the percentage of bronze in alloy N?"

## 50 clubs form alliance against diabetes

THE PHILIPPINES is now in the top 10 list of countries with the most number of diabetes cases. That's according to the World Health Organization.

Six to seven million Filipinos are now diabetics, and another six to seven million are still clueless about it, even though they have the disease.

But vigilant diabetics decided to fight the disease head on.

Fifty diabetic clubs recently agreed to form an alliance that will strengthen the fight against diabetes. A resolution signing among members of the Diabetic Clubs Alliance of the Philippines at the Villamor Clubhouse in Pasay City formalized this joining of hands, aimed at

curbing diabetes. With the theme "Empowering the Diabetics," diabetics hope to further strengthen the campaign against diabetes through public awareness and education.

The resolution is part of Operation Diabetes, a project of the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (Amhoph), supported by Herbicare Corp., maker of Charentia Ampalaya Food Supplement.

## Urgent need

Herbicare president Lino Abelarde said there is an urgent need for diabetics and health care professionals to be united in the fight against diabetes, to

enable them to learn from one another and share experience in diabetes care, prevention and management.

Herbicare has supported the creation of 76 diabetes clubs all over the country and some 100 new clubs are still being formed.

Diabetes is a lifelong disease which is not fatal, but could be burdensome to the patient and their loved ones, physically, emotionally and financially.

## Need for support

With the alarming growth in diabetes cases, the need for support and care from the family of diabetics is extremely important.

Diabetics may also reach out to their

fellow diabetics through clubs or support groups which will give them the opportunity to share experiences of living with diabetes. Families of diabetics may also join such groups to increase their awareness on caring for their loved one. Knowing that they are not alone in their fight somehow helps lift a diabetic's spirit.

Diabetics who wish to bring their blood sugar levels down can also benefit from taking natural herbal food supplements such as Charentia Ampalaya tea, which has been tested and recommended by diabetics.

For more information on Operation Diabetes, call 802 2222.

## Drinking tea enables your good vibes to spring out

GOOD vibes are actually scientifically explainable. They can be interpreted as alpha brain waves—that state of mind when you're alert and relaxed at once. Beta waves make you alert and excited, theta waves occur during light sleep, while delta in deep sleep. When your brain's on alpha mode, you're in tune with the throbs of the universe because there's no mental turbulence, there's no noise. You're one with all. And it manifests in the vibes you emit outwardly.

Some people get on alpha mode by practicing meditation—being silent and still for

long periods of time. Others get it through communing with nature, by appreciating the intrinsic essence of all living things.

Then there's another way to release those alpha brainwaves, and it's by taking a magic potion. Yes, you can literally drink it up, and good vibes spring straight out of you. That magic potion is that drink you call tea.

Tea contains a very special ingredient called Theanine. It's a free amino acid that's found exclusively in tea plants.

Theanine creates a sense of relaxation about half an hour after ingestion. It

penetrates the nervous system in two ways: it influences an inhibitory neurotransmitter that relaxes you, while also tickles the production level of two other neurotransmitters called dopamine and serotonin. These are the sources of all things that put you in a good mood, make you feel happy and buoyant, sharpen your memory, and even improve your learning ability.

When you take that cup of tea it's an act of affirmation that you'd rather much be calm and confident in a natural, gentle way; that you really prefer

the kind of glow that emanates through every pore of your being. They call it natural beauty, the kind that never fades. And that's the theanine style.

We always miss and seek the company of those relaxed, stress-free folks with those precious alpha brain waves. They're just so nice, so charming, such a joy to hang around with. And more important, being with them makes you hope their good vibes would somehow rub off on you. So what better way to bask in their good vibes than over a cup of tea like Lipton Yellow Label Tea, to help you be just like them too.



## Smokers more likely to snore, says study

WASHINGTON—A study of 15,555 men and women in five Scandinavian countries found that people who smoke are more likely to snore, even if they have quit smoking.

The study, published in the October edition of the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, found that tobacco use contributed 17.1 percent to the risk of frequent snoring in people 25 to 54 years of age, compared to 4.3 percent for obesity and 2.2 percent for passive smoking.

According to researchers, this is the first time that passive smoke was linked to increased risk of snoring.

The research was done on people in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Estonia and Iceland. AFP



# BUSINESS

## Peso falls to near record low of 56.43

*Intra-day drop due to ratings agency warning, rising oil prices, traders say*

By Doris C. Dumbao

THE PESO yesterday fell to 56.435 against the US dollar before recovering in the afternoon trade.

This developed shortly after the credit ratings agency Standard & Poor's warned the government about its fragile fiscal position, while global oil prices continued to surge.

The market's sentiment was also weakened by the recent resignation of the Philippines' investor relations officer Cora Guidote after the government's fis-

cal program drew flak from investors during a recent global roadshow.

The local currency opened at 56.42 and hit the intra-day low of 56.435 before closing at 56.34. Despite the bearish trading against the greenback in the morning, the local currency closed even slightly stronger than Thursday's finish of 56.37 to the dollar.

About \$178 million changed hands at the spot foreign exchange market Philippine Dealing System.

Traders said the early morning weakness was brought about by jitters over

the rise in global oil prices to \$52 per barrel, as well as S&P's latest report, which warned of heightened risks to the Philippines' credit ratings due to lagging fiscal reforms and rising vulnerability to the uptrend in global interest rates.

S&P currently places the country's long-term foreign currency credit rating at BB or non-investment grade with a "stable" outlook, which was maintained during its last rating in July this year.

The BB rating is defined as having "substantial credit risk, particularly as a result of adverse economic change over

time, but business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met."

The credit rating firm said the next two to three months would be crucial in determining the country's near-term fiscal outlook, as well as the new administration's capacity to initiate and implement reform.

But traders said the peso recovered in the afternoon trade due to remittances from overseas Filipino workers ahead of the weekend. They likewise cited some "offsetting" factors such as the general rebound of

other currencies in the region which benefited the peso later during the day.

The market was also adversely affected by the resignation of Guidote, who reportedly came under fire during a recent global roadshow held in Asia, Europe and the United States.

Banking sources said Guidote, who was personally disappointed over the terms of a recent \$1-billion global bond offering by the government, felt she could no longer function effectively after some investors raised the same issue during the roadshow.

## Electronics exports up 9.3% to \$16B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ELECTRONICS and semiconductor exports went up 9.3 percent in the first eight months to \$16.8 billion from \$15.4 billion in the same period in 2003, according to a group of industry firms.

Arthur Young, president of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc., said the exports rose despite a slackening of demand in the third quarter.

"We are seeing a potential uptick [of demand] in the fourth quarter and we are focused on achieving our target of 10 percent growth for the year," Young said during a press briefing.

The sector accounted for \$22 billion or 68 percent of the country's total export earnings in 2003.

Young said electronics exports in August also yielded \$2.2 billion in receipts, an increase of 12 percent over the previous month's receipts of about \$1.97 billion.

"Globally, the industry's growth was fairly flat and tended to go downward, but the country had the right mix of products (that enabled it to post such growth)," Young said.

He added that major companies like Texas Instruments, Continental Temic and Philips Electronics also moved to expand their operations.

"While the industry is not growing worldwide, Asia is still a major attraction globally," he said.

According to Young, the expected softening of the world market in 2006 had advanced to mid-2005, but there were opportunities for the country to post double-digit growth next year despite this development.

Industry officials explained that locally, demand for automotive-related products, flat panel displays and wireless phones were driving the continued growth of the market.

## No shortage in rice supply yet, says NFA

By Christine A. Gaylasan

THE NATIONAL Food Authority yesterday reported that the country had enough supply of rice—sufficient at least for the next 50 days.

According to NFA Administrator Gregorio Tan, the rice supply stands at 1.35 million metric tons. This would be enough to feed the country for the next 50 days, based on the national average daily requirement of 27,000 metric tons.

But Tan said that the country's national rice inventory "will be beefed up by the main crop harvest that started last month."

"Of this inventory, the NFA holds 382,000 metric tons and the private sector holds 308,800 metric tons," Tan explained.

Tan said that the current price of palay (unmilled rice) and rice at the NFA's retail stores are P9.60 per kilo, and P17.50 per kilo, respectively.

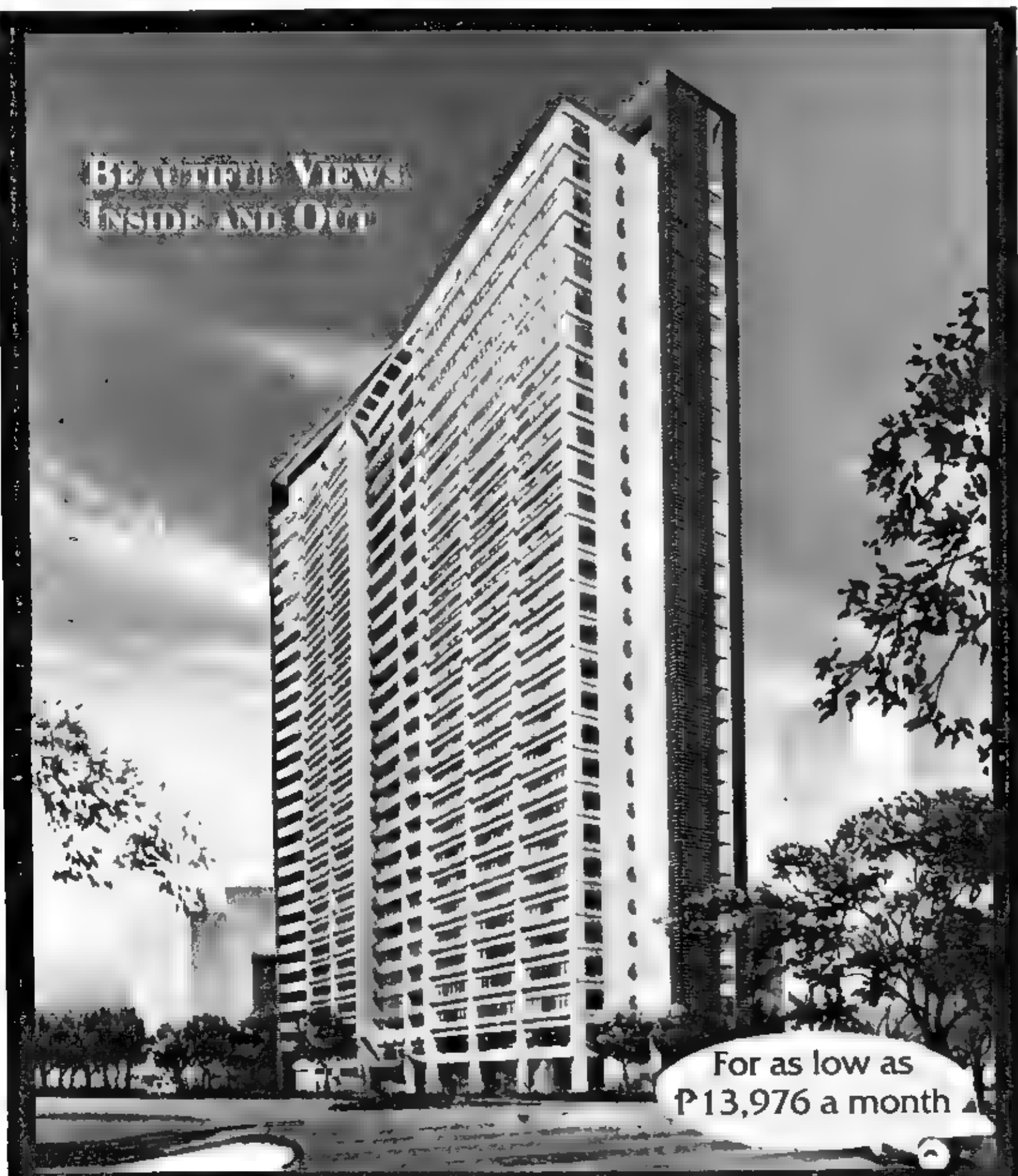
"Prevailing prices of palay have been on a downward trend, due to the onset of the harvest season which comes by the last quarter," he said.

As of the last week of September, the NFA had already bought a total of 86,638 bags of palay under its grains procurement program. The agency is hoping to buy 5.7 million bags until December and has a budget of P4 billion this year.

"Rice now sells at an average price of P19.12 per kilo," said Tan. "Special or fancy rice are being sold at about P22."

Tan also said that the agency's distribution of government rice is heaviest in Manila with a daily average of 907 metric tons, followed by Bulacan with 382 metric tons, and Cebu with 330 metric tons.

Despite high production yields this first semester, the Philippines would still import more than 900,000 metric tons of rice from other Asian countries to fill up the buffer stocks for the entire year.



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**Tessa Prieto-Valdes?**

**JM Rodriguez,**  
over or under?  
page 11

**Blazing Bianca Araneta**

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# Pick up lines

Have we met before? You look familiar. The signs, barely, speak about the city's nightlife

Original artwork by Jason Moss  
Text by Gino de la Paz

**I**t's true. Much has already been said about the so-called death of Manila's nightlife scene in the earlier parts of this decade.

As the previous setting for a debauched cycle of endless late nights and early mornings, the city's bars and clubs were home to trendy hedonists, nocturnal coolsters, and generally interesting things who simply wanted to have a good time. Unfortunately, the demise of these establishments, one after the other, has made the citizens of the night into orphans and has relegated the chemical—and/or alcohol-induced haze to the past. But why did it have to end this way? To borrow from political strategist James Carville, "It's the economy, stupid!"

Or is it really?

**"Do you wanna see something swell?"**

Away from imaginary tiaras and monster tantrums, door whores and list fascists, and seeing and being seen, a new kind of nocturnal scene emerged. Like reality TV, it was thoroughly accessible, dressed down, and yes, it took place inside your house. Perhaps a side effect of being clubbed to death in the late '90s, more and more people decided to, well, just stay home. Whether one was getting tanked with liquor from the convenience store or getting high with other substances, the couch became the backdrop to many do-it-yourself parties. Likewise, numerous family-oriented grill restaurants sprouted across the metropolis, offering fun in the form of P25 beers and bottomless sisig.

**"You make my software turn to hardware!"**

Areas such as Eastwood and Greenbelt soon became destinations for young people who finally got bored playing Jenga and drinking gin and tonics. Admittedly, the vibe was still more casual than posh—okay, more posh than cash in Greenbelt—a sign it seems that things are shaking up once again for the party set.

As in fashion—where hemlines, references, and the like—experience a resurgence on a cyclical basis, Manila's night life is no different. Remember, however, that when things do come back, they can't exactly be the same as before.

**"Have I met you before?"**

Let's take a close look. First, big-name international DJs still make Manila a pitstop, uniting the glitterati with the gutterati under one phat groove. But despite that, only a

few dance their asses off to the excellent music. The rest merely scope each other out, stare at the DJ, or wait for their peaks to hit. Next, it has also become apparent that a night out now is not about the music, but about sex, not that it's a bad thing. Last, along with conventional club music, other genres have also risen to prominence, giving the fickle public more options. Among these new crews, though, it's r&b/hiphop that seems to be taking over Manila, not to mention, the world. And clubbing doesn't have a lock on the night life choices either. These days, one can go nuts in a karaoke place, sip moccaccinos, or sweat it out by playing sports. Indeed, fun is back but in a new way.

Everybody's got great stories to tell after a highly enjoyable night out. Lately, however, they all seem to inevitably end with the line "It feels so different now." If you care to see that as a sign of evolution, maybe that's not so bad.





## A nightlife less ordinary

### OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

IT WAS a Saturday afternoon, and already the energy was so thick, I could taste it like candy.

Beelzebub had surely possessed my mobile phone, as it would not stop quivering and belching with text messages from restless city rogues who could not wait for the sun to set and for night to blanket the city. One text message was an invitation for an early, intimate party with marathon screenings of Fat Boy Slim's gig in Brighton Beach, Underworld's transcontinental performances, and The Chemical Brothers' set 'til the rising sun in Japan. Yet another SMS had proposed a lovely little idea of getting tanked on Tanduay and tequila to spike the afternoon solemnity in anticipation of the coming nocturnal revelry. What was the catalyst of such uncontrollable exhilaration? The city was getting heady over some early Halloween treat that night—Hed Kandi had flown into town, and suddenly, everyone had contracted an aching sweet tooth.

True enough, as Le Pavillon's gates opened that night, the party-hungry denizens were besieged with shimmering lights, mesmerizing graphics onstage and breezy, feel-good

ANIGHTLIFE C6



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# 30 Years and Going Strong

## Talk 'N Text Starts New PBA Season with a Bang!

Human butterflies brought color to the PBA Opening



Chanters warmed up the crowd before the main game



Phone Pals Yancy de Ocampo, Nino Celis, join TNT music Anne Curtis and Regine Velasquez



Asia's first play for pay league is back! Talk 'N Text welcomed the opening of the 30<sup>th</sup> Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) Season after a long hiatus last October 3 at the Araneta Coliseum. The ten teams were presented to the public, together with their lovely muses. PBA Commissioner Noli Eala welcomed the thousands in attendance and the countless others who tuned in to catch the Opening Ceremonies of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup.

The colorful opening saw butterflies and metamorphosis as the underlying theme, as the PBA embarks on the next phase of its existence. "Asia's Songbird" Regine Velasquez

and rockers Bamboo entertained the PBA's loyal fans within the Big Dome, as anticipation built for the main game.

It was soon time for business as defending All-Filipino champions Talk 'N Text squared off with league pioneer San Miguel in the lone game of the evening. Perhaps inspired by the presence of team muse Anne Curtis and Regine Velasquez, the Phone Pals bucked foul trouble from reigning league MVP Asi Taulava. Getting balanced scoring from their regulars, Talk 'N Text also leaned on a clutch performance from Mark Telan down the stretch. Telan had 9 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter as the Phone

Pals outlasted the Beermen 93-89, a fine way of starting this promising season.

The PBA is a staple to millions in this basketball-crazy nation. Talk 'N Text is glad to welcome back the PBA to the fold. As this season unfolds over the course of the next few months, you can be sure that Talk 'N Text will be ever-present to cater to the needs of the millions of PBA fans across the Philippines.

To get alerts on PBA scores, Schedules & news, text PBA ON to 204.



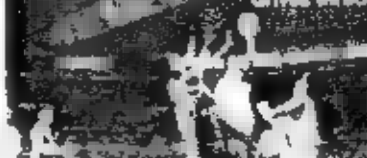
Asia's Songbird meets The Rock, Asi Taulava



PBA Chairman Buddy Encarnado and PBA Commissioner Noli Eala declared the PBA Games open



Wade Miller drives through traffic



Who wants the ball?



Talk 'N Text's first 9th game to the PBA in East Meets the West in the Big Dome



## ANOTHER SCOOP!



# An assembly of daredevils

Photos by Jun De Leon

**T**O DARE is not always an easy thing to do. You will get flack for swimming against the tide, your intentions to fuel positive change will be deemed ignoble and people will perceive you as a threat.

Tim Yap

"Not every safe place is sensible. With the ever-evolving circus that has become

today, sensible is the wind with the rain. Says Pepsi guy, book, Dare.

There is a group who despite the dare, break the dards for this come. "They be choose to live the



# Guess who's having a baby?

by Yap  
by Steve Tirona

AM six weeks pregnant!" Tessa Prieto-Waldes told me over phone while we were discussing our outfits before hopping to an event. "I've been praying for this for some time," the Sea Princess told me that this has been one of her most ardent wishes ever she does her weekly devotion in Baclaran Church. "Ask the world and you'll get it! I'm happy about this blessing—I even have to kneel down and pray in the aisle." She did not expect the situation. Her hubby Dennis would tease her, "But you're so old!" To which she would answer back, "Hey, if Madonna had a baby at 42, so can I!" Tessa has always wanted to have another girl, after her other children, Bryan 19, Tyrone 9, and another youngest at 6.

**honeymoon**  
Designer Rajo Laurel wants something else for his fashion slash gay icon, "You should at least have one gay son!" How did this all happen? Tessa and Dennis left to compete in the Olympics as of the Swatch team, they decided to take a little side trip and a mini honeymoon in the island Santorini. Dennis acts as my accom-

pany—he computes whether I'm safe or not. But with all the traveling, I guess my cycle got screwed up (pun not intended)—I guess it was a hormonal imbalance. When I got home, my period was late. So I just waited and waited. But three weeks is a little long." So Tessa took a pregnancy test. She was in Tagaytay one week-end when she did it. "Two lines!" "When we found out, we were both jumping for joy!" Tessa said, her face lighting up even more.

## House rules

"I'm technically at high risk because I've had a miscarriage twice." Her doctor Annebelle Aherrera warned her.

So now that the scene royalty is anticipating, these are the doctor's house rules:

1. No more belly dancing
2. No more flamenco
3. No more yoga until three months
4. No more biking and running—only walking and swimming.
5. No alcohol
6. Stay away from fatty foods

Despite all that, Tessa gushes about her state, "It's amazing how you can be an instrument in creating new life."

"Now that I'm 41, I've never been so fit in my life. It's really about defying your age, if you're fit, you'll feel better."

So what will Tessa and Dennis name their soon-to-be-born baby? "Athena if she's a girl and Adonis if he's a guy—because our baby was made in Greece."

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San Miguel, Inquirer, P5.1, Jey



# Age Evils

is knowing when to chase out bumbling your knees," Celine Lopez in her new...  
wing number of individuals...  
e uphill battle, choose to...  
mold and set higher stan...  
neration and the ones to...  
ieve in something deeply...  
ear dreams, and know how

and when to change the backdrops of their lives." Says the scene's reigning "it" girl.  
So, ignore the dinosaurs who block your path and only listen to well meaning elders who shower you with wisdom. Never look down on those who are younger and less experienced than you—they are part of the never ending process called evolution.  
We encourage you to live life. We dare you to dare.

This OCTOBER Rock 'n' Roll rules at the Stars with a month-long festival of live, electrifying gigs featuring some of the country's best performers. Watch the Battle of the Bands and celebrate Oktoberfest with musing music and drinks that'll extend to Halloween's trick and treats!

# Oktoberfest

**OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

STARMALL EDSA-SHAW	METROPOLIS STAR ALABANG	STARMALL LAS PIÑAS
3 MUSIKA LABAN SA DROGA Featuring the Cross live! 3pm, 2nd Level, Trade Hall	3 TRUE FAITH MALL SHOW 5pm, 4th Level, Trade Hall	2, 9, 15, 23 OKTOBERFEST 2004 8pm, Activity Hub
10, 17 & 24 OKTOBERFEST 2004 STAR PASIKLABAN Battle of the Bands 4pm, 2nd Level, Foodcourt	8 MEGA JOB FAIR c/o PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE 10am-4pm, 4th Level, Trade Hall	11, 12 Overseas Employment Expo Philippine Daily Inquirer Mall Hours, Activity Hub
15 MIDNIGHT SALE 10am - 12pm	15 MIDNIGHT MADNESS 10am-12pm	15, 16, 17 and 30, 31 MALL-WIDE SALE
15, 16, 17 and 30, 31 MALL-WIDE SALE	15 MUSIKA LABAN SA DROGA Featuring the Cross live! 4th Level, Trade Hall	16 WORKING OUT 2 With Ms. JACKIE LOU BLANCO Mall Hours, Activity Hub
23 TRICK OR TREAT PARADE 3pm	15, 16, 17 and 30, 31 MALL-WIDE SALE	24 A Gospel Concert by Jesus Is Lord Movement 4pm, Activity Hub
25-29 OKTOBERFEST 2004 - FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL - TRADE AND TOURISM EXPO Tradehall, 2nd Level	24 OKTOBERFEST 2004 STAR JAM Battle of the Bands Open to all amateur bands composed of 4 to 8 members, at least 18 years old. Music may vary from rock, alternative, pop to R&B. Call 850-3845	30 MUSIKA LABAN SA DROGA Featuring the Cross live! 8pm, Activity Hub
30 OKTOBERFEST 2004 STAR PASIKLABAN GRAND FINALS - Battle of the Bands (w/ Guest Artists) 5pm, Star Grill, Shaw Boulevard	30 SAVAN AT GALAW c/o Munimupa Dances Co. 5pm	31 TRICK OR TREAT 5pm, Activity Hub, 2nd Level
Wed/Fridays Acoustic Nights at the Bridge 7-9pm	31 MALL-WIDE TRICK OR TREAT AND COSTUME PARTY	
Fridays Acoustic Nightlife 8:30-11:30pm		

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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Maricris Zobel

Making a... glo...



ONE drug that brings people together: music

## A nightlife less ordinary

From page C3

house music. I admit I was quite shocked, although pleasantly so, that for once people had not hung around the periphery of the dance floor with about as much energy as a Dorn column. Early on, they assaulted the dance space, passed around the booze, in ecstatic expression of the one drug that brings people together: music.

### Recent history

I must confess that I had become jaded about what I labeled the so-called Manila party scene. And it wasn't because of the quality of music that we were treated to—for in the past few years, we had been blessed with such stellar, world-class talents as John Digweed, Seb Fontaine, Paul Van Dyk, Armand Van Helden and Sasha.

Oh yes, DJ Sasha... I once had the fortune of snagging an exclusive interview with Sasha a few hours before his set. However, that mind-blowing interview never saw print, only because I was extremely disappointed at how the "party" unfolded. When Sasha took over the turntable that night, I couldn't believe how partying could be such sweet sorrow. I was shocked that people just stood around, nursing their beers as they surveyed the dance floor, engaged in... people watching. I was even more distressed seeing kids standing in front of the DJ booth taking Sasha's pictures with their new fangled cell phones. And perhaps I was a bit too pushy for actually going up to some chicks and saying, "Sayaw! Sayaw!" But they pointed at their four-inch stilettos and said, "Masakit kasi eh." So I asked myself, why go to these big parties at all? Organizers pay good money to uplift the Manila nightlife scene, only to cater to guests who are too self-conscious to simply cut loose and have fun? Or, to touch on a touchy subject—are people just too dependent on a hit of ecstacy to be able to enjoy the music? In big cities like London, people would pay as much as £20 (that's about P2,000) just to watch these DJs 'til the last record is spun. So really, should you throw a party if you think you're the most interesting person there, to paraphrase Mickey Friedman?

So there really was a lull and thus was birthed a whole new era in the Manila night life story, which was the bar culture. Here was a chance for people to dress up, go out, spend way too much money on a bottle of beer, and once again, go people watching.

### Love the nightlife

These days, however, there seems to be an upsurge in the party scene once again. A big factor, I believe, is the group BigFish who, in the past few

years, have not wavered in romancing Manila with world-class parties and DJs, perhaps with the ideaistic notion that a collective crowd's attitude could evolve. I think they proved it, too, with their last few parties, including God skitchen's progressive trance trip last August and last Saturday's happy house concocted by Hed Kandi. (Incidentally, this Manila stint was their next big gig after their contract with El Divino in Ibiza expired last September.) Hed Kandi's resident DJ Andy Norman said he had a fabulous time.

So what was it about Hed Kandi, that got people in full, revelry mode? Tuck Cheah, or DJ TC, one of the bigwigs behind BigFish, had some insight on this phenomenon. In spite of his humble demeanor TC has an impressive resumé that covers two decades of organizing parties in Sydney, Singapore and London. Says TC, "Hed Kandi is music that people can relate to: it's commercial music. There is a good marker for Hed Kandi—from London to Bogota, Ibiza to Sydney, people know the music because it has marketed itself very well." TC doesn't believe there's a deficiency in the Filipino party culture, for it's really about bringing in music that people can connect with. The solution, he believes, is music education. "People do want to dance but I think there should be more channels for music education in the different genres of electronic music." The party scene of many cities around the world eventually evolved into happening hubs because of independent college radio stations that educated listeners with progressive, trance, house and tribal beats. Thus, what it really is, is a cycle of various elements that starts off with the fundamentals of good music.

A tip of the hat to BigFish for keeping the faith. The group is keenly aware of the importance of putting value into the experience from sound quality to conducive partying interiors, down to the little details that make a difference, like the shower of confetti that falls on the crowd as the music soars to rapturous levels.

And what about die-hard believers who feel that, once again, Manila is on the cusp of a reinvigorated night life? I think a friend put it best on the hangover Sunday I dubbed as Hed Achey, when he said, "Everyone should just stop worrying about what other people think." Which is to say, strip yourself of inhibitions and social dictates. Partying is an art, after all. And with art being a high degree of self-expression, it is essential that one must simply let go!

Watch for  
Net 25 On Tour  
in Gen. Trias, Cavite!

### Brings family entertainment to a new experience in Pampanga and North of Metro Manila

Thousands of families donning NET 25 tees in various colors trooped to the first two legs of NET 25 On Tour, a series of specially-produced entertainment events featuring the informative and educational shows of NET 25.

The Bren Guiso Convention Center in Pampanga and the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Pasay City were swarmed with enthusiastic individuals who witnessed the musical and cultural performances collaboratively staged by NET 25 celebrities and the local talents of the respective regions.

The Pampanga celebration had a jam-packed audience of 6,000 which overflowed to the nearby Sports Complex while the Ninoy Aquino festivities had 7,000 people who enjoyed the package of wholesome entertainment.

As early as 9:00 in the morning, drivers came rushing in the venues, some coming from the motorcade and some from the NET 25 sticker campaign held in strategic areas within the vicinity.

People looked around the booth displays of exhibitors who offered food, appliances, food supplements, goosenecks and other services. The NET 25 On Tour provided a festive experience to the huge family gathering that made a significant impact in terms of attendance and audience participation.

Major highlights of NET 25's exclusive coverage including its pioneering shows were presented in a multi-media performance with live presentation of top-notch entertainment from the freshest pool of NET 25 singers, dancers and band members.

The electrifying roadshow presentation was part of NET 25's campaign to offer entertainment-oriented program offerings to its ever-growing viewership. And for sure, more is in store in the coming months as NET 25 On Tour rolls out its campaign in Cavite, Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan, Palawan and a repeat in Metro Manila. Watch for it!

Fill up and cut this portion and present to the NET 25 Marketing Office in Malaga Building, 887 EDSA or at the NET 25 On Tour in Cavite on October to get here (2) pieces of NET 25 Stickers.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cellphone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# Bathing in nitrogen

**I**t used to be enjoyed only in Singapore, but now Filipinos will have a chance to discover the newest way to get that natural high. Believe it or not, when in the olden times you could only bathe yourself in water, now you can have in nitrogen, and you can do it away from the privacy of your own home. (Fine, you can use chocolate syrup and whipped cream, too, but you can hardly do that in public.)

How to get that nitrogen fix? It's easy! Just don your finest for a typical gimmick night, get ready to dance and, instead of facing the usual smoke and fog machines, the mechanism will blast out N and when it hits you, you will feel a sudden rush of well-being. Imagine that.

The country's first-ever Nitrogen Shower Party will waft through your skin at Club Halo this coming Friday, Oct. 15, with no less than famous DJ Ricky Stone on the decks. He is flying in after a series of successful gigs across continents to wow Filipinos yet again.

All I can say is: Guys, breathe in.

## Saturday, October 9

Wear red if you don't want to be caught by the Fashion Police at Kokun's opening of the new club, Government. The first thumps of house music will be heard at the stroke of 10 p.m., or maybe a little later than that, as party animals are usually fashionably late. Err, as long as you're in style, whatever floats your boat. There is an entrance fee that is quite reasonable. See you tonight as the new Government is revealed, along Makati Avenue. Watch out for the steady trail of party heads, that usually is a certain sign.

## Sunday, October 10

The land of B's (Beer, Bach, Brahms, Beethoven and Birkenstock) is celebrating its month, and one of the events is a very interesting presentation tonight. Music from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance Period will be performed by the talented Concert Ensemble Armacord at the RCB Plaza. For details, call 845-1324 or log on to [www.germany-philippines.com](http://www.germany-philippines.com)

## Monday, October 11

Can big bucks purchase talent? Or can fancy jewelry buy creativity? Judge for yourself when you've seen the works of pretty boy Alexandre Charriol. The name sounds familiar because, indeed, he is the heir to the jewelry magnate Philippe Charriol. "Encounters" will present the younger Charriol's vibrant and quite interesting works at the Ayala Museum today, and you don't need a bracelet or a watch to get in.

## Tuesday, October 12

Issey Miyake is launching its new fragrance for men, and if the previous cologne is any indication of what this one is going to be, the women will love it for sure. Personally I just love Miyake for men so I can't wait to smell this new scent. The cap will be uncovered for the first wafts at 6:30 p.m., Liberty State Inc. Reposo Street, Makati City.

## Wednesday, October 13

For art-lovers, Antonio Leano's recent works are on display at the Art Center, 4th level, SM Megamall. For more information, dial 722-9205.

## Thursday, October 14

One of the most intriguing people I have ever met, Tony Perez is truly a jack-of-all-trades. Now he has a solo exhibit going on, featuring still lifes in acrylic, oil, pastels, pen, ink and poster colors. "Odes to the Triple Goddess," at the Magnet Gallery, Paseo de Roxas, corner Sedenio Street, Makati City. Ring up 817-7895 for details.

## Friday, October 15

Ricky Stone is back from a long absence, wowing other Asian countries and just basically making noise all over. This talented Brit DJ is not only ranked in DJ Mag, he has also gained a superb following in the years he has been spinning the decks. Come listen to his music at the first-ever Nitrogen Shower Party Club Halo tonight, 10 p.m. Get your legs ready for some serious dancing. Club Halo is located at the Mile Long Compound, Amoroso Street, Makati City.

## The Word for the Bored:

"I'm always described as 'cocksure' or 'with a swagger' and that bears no resemblance to who I feel, like inside. I feel, plagued by insecurity."

—Ben Affleck

## Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia



Want to get that nitrogen fix? Get into the bubble world and find the answer at Club Halo this coming Friday, Oct. 15



FOAM party! Foam party! DJ Ricky Stone coming to Manila

Brands close to your heart

Sara Lee

Direct Selling



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Movie Log	P15.00
Movie Pc	P15.00
Movie Cjct	P15.00
Movie Tons	P15.00
Movie Poly	P15.00
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**Shark Tale** - attack!





































**The Cellphone for Kids**

download a fresh copy of Clark's notes and images for a chance to win a trip to Ocean Park, Hong Kong. Or a chance to win a car and new Mexican \$1-trail SUV.















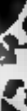

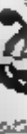































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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

 actress alba	 actress aniston	 actress judd	 actress diaz	 actress berry	 actress bullock
 actress diaz	 actress judd	 actress aniston	 actress alba	 actress berry	 actress bullock
 actress berry	 actress bullock	 actress alba	 actress diaz	 actress aniston	 actress judd
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**primary**

Got To Be Real	Go 2BR
Can't Walk	Can't Walk
Gold Digger	Gold Digger
We Went As Far As	Went
We Felt Like Going	Sweet Life
Sweet Kind of Love	

THEY TOLD ME

THESE POLY-CLAYERS ARE THE

10

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FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY

BY PM. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBBO

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



**HOROSCOPE**

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY** You're a shrewd observer of the human condition. You observe society around you, and you understand it well. This intuition attracts people to you. You're sensitive, artistic and not afraid to explore unknown realms. Your personal partnerships are sometimes all-consuming. Nevertheless, you're inspiring to your friends. You need increased solitude this year to learn something important.

Birthdate of: John Lennon, musician; Jackson Browne, composer; Scott Bakula, actor.

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19): In discussions with others today, you're like Sherlock Holmes. You're determined to get to the bottom of something. You want the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20): You feel playful! Games, puzzles, mysteries, whodunits and entertaining diversions appeal to you now. Who wants to work? Not you!

**LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22): It's very easy for you to persuade, influence and change other people's thinking about anything today. Everyone will listen to you as if mesmerized.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20): Tackle any project at work today that requires concentration, scrutiny, research and attention to detail. You've got what it takes right now, so use it.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day to do repairs and cleaning. Attend to garbage and laundry areas. Roll up your sleeves and tackle those dirty jobs you've been avoiding. They'll be relatively easy.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your mind is like a laser today. You penetrate things like a hot knife in butter. You'll get all the facts about financial matters (and things related to your job) that you want to know.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your love of mysteries is aroused! You're attracted to difficult puzzles. You want to solve problems and come up with the right answers.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a fabulous day to research information that you need. You'll leave no stone unturned. You'll find what you're looking for.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Discussions with a friend are serious, deep and probing. Nobody can fool you today. It's as if you have X-ray vision. Because of this, you can tell if others are being straight with you.

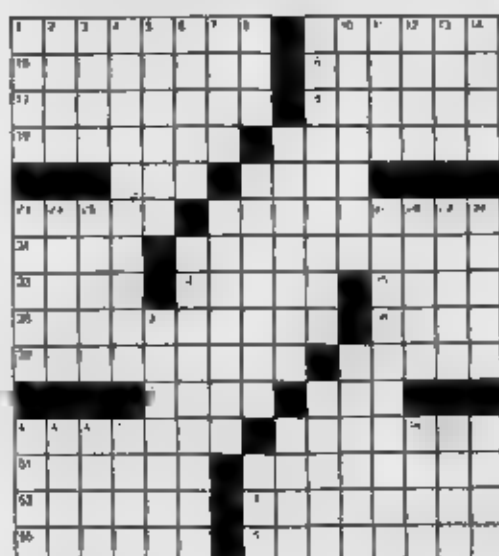
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might become obsessed about an idea today. You want to tell everyone about it, including your boss. You might as well do it, because nothing will change your mind.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You want big answers to big questions now. You want to grasp the bottom line of some kind of religion, philosophy or spirituality. You want to figure out how something actually works.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you're looking for secrets today (and you probably are), then you'll find them. These could be secrets about intimate matters or about somebody's finances. (Hush-hush.)

**DAILY CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Mixer
  - Blind panic
  - Having peace of mind
  - One of Jerry's cliques
  - Tide and diet, to edit
  - Diminish
  - Juvla neighbors
  - Disturbance in a teapot?
  - Footlike part
  - Cleanse
  - Lots
  - Pribolol (brand name)
  - Bankruptcy
  - Essential facts
  - Old-style exclamation
  - Chilling
  - Hindu bononics
  - In danger
  - Patched shellie
  - Humble user



By Arton & Linda Bushman  
Chicago, IL

- DOWN**
- Bureau add-on
  - Carson's replacement
  - Balor, Mongols
  - Prodigal
  - Episode TV show
  - Shapes of tracks
  - Sen. group
  - Junk mail, mostly
  - Brought to your livingroom?
  - Nickel, for instance
  - Coarse tie
  - Stand up
  - Eleven's numerals
  - Jonathan Larsen play
  - Nocturnal arboreal primate
  - Pupil
  - Womies
  - Anything whatever
  - Miss JSA looper
  - Air currents
  - Art of good eating
  - Clit-base rock, deoris
  - Scratching (out)
  - Hoppers, abbr.
  - Real-world trials for a product
  - Shake up
  - Of the back
  - Church truth
  - Carson's predecessor
  - Without work
  - Houston campus
  - Hubbubs
  - "Between Two Lovers"
  - Park and Lex
  - Body shop concern
  - Leaver food scraps
  - Air-travel watchdog grp.

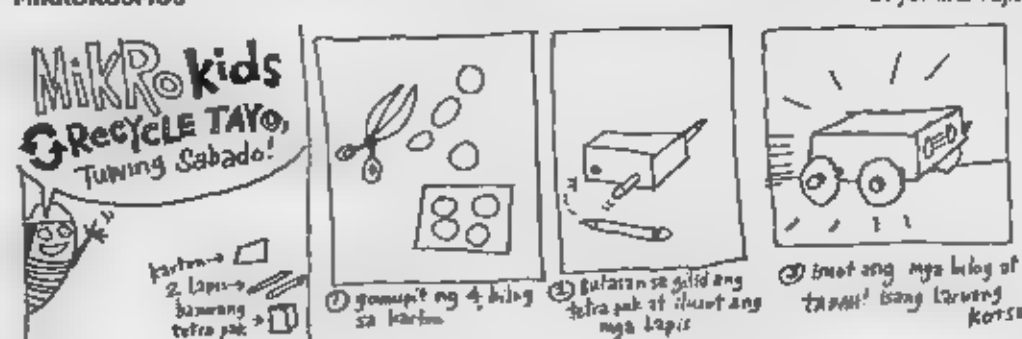
Friday's Puzzle Solver



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MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVERNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

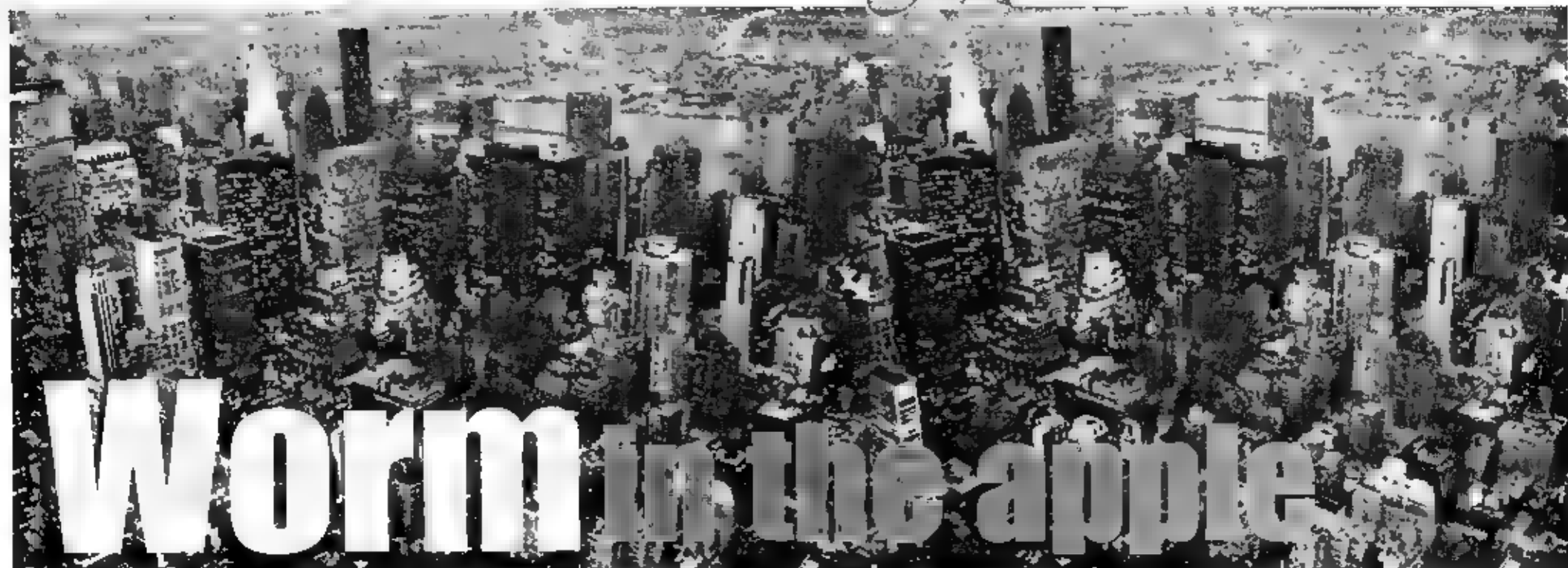


TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATLUM MILAMBING







From page D1

## Tale of two cities

Similar to Manila in a lot of respects, Manhattan displays some very familiar traits. Traffic can be oppressive, especially when it rains. The crush of people is impressive. Pedestrians scamper across streets on red lights. Nightlife is a week-long affair. Local celebrities are tabloid fodder. Tons of beautiful, young people frequent the horizon. And most unusual of all—just like Manila—there are so many Filipinos here. I've traveled extensively and I have never encountered so many Filipinos outside the metropolis (although I hear California and, believe it or not, Guam, are home to even more *kababayan*s).

Of course there are striking differences as well. The cultural variety is like a fruit basket from Eden—seems like every nationality, every ethnicity, every religion, every sexual orientation, every political ideology, every financial bracket and every social class is represented. While spotty at times, mass transportation is, on the whole, generally reliable. Everything is expensive—two packs of Marlboros in New York is equivalent to a carton of Winston Lights in Manila. Brooklyn Lager costs about P270 in a cheap bar, and a steak dinner at Morton's will pay for one night at the Shangri-La EDSA. Oh, and it gets ridiculously cold during the winter months.

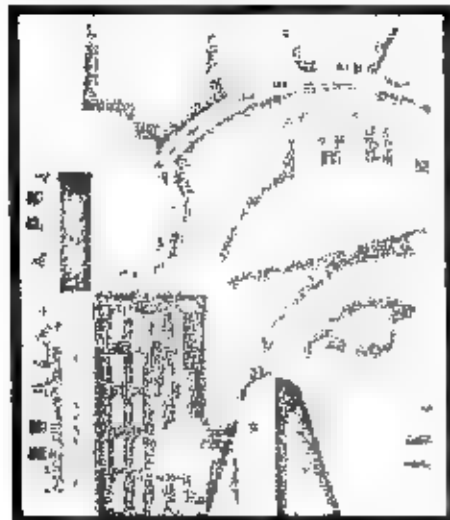
My intentions for departing Manila for New York are still unclear, both to myself and to the cities concerned. Indeed, it is this very vagueness that allows one the freedom to travel. Even if I had specific intents—such as school or contractual work of a certain nature—the motivation would be clear only until one of the variables changed. But if the move itself is the reason, the desire to relocate away from familiar territory becomes a challenge transcendent of occupation or academic direction. It does not matter how much money I will make, or what multinational company I will be working for, or how many famous actors I will meet (although that's a priority). The process of surviving the displacement becomes an achievement in itself.

## The Manhattan Project

My agenda for the following weeks include such mundane tasks as 1) finding a place to stay, 2) finding work, 3) getting in touch with old friends, 4) getting a touch with the inner "me" (Oprah says this works), 5) meeting new people, 6) locating a local pub to call my own, and 7) voting in the upcoming Presidential elections (guess who I'm going for). Along the way, I expect to encounter a slew of unplanned adventures and, hopefully, I will survive these encounters to possess a more developed sense of humanity, a better understanding of things I don't yet understand so well, and Natalie Portman's phone number.

This column is about dreams. Dreams of a concrete manifestation suffered during my conscious hours: of Manila, of being away from Manila, of the differences and similarities of these realities. Dreams I am currently having right now, even as we speak through the silent medium of print. This is not a travelogue, nor is it a diary. Maybe it's a combination of both, like a "travary"? Or better yet a "dialogue." A dialogue between cities mediated by a citizen of both. A communication of ethos translated by a angst of two languages. A conversation enjoyed in the company of two distinct cultures recounting past experiences, comparing present fantasies, and contemplating the hopeful expectation of what dreams may come.

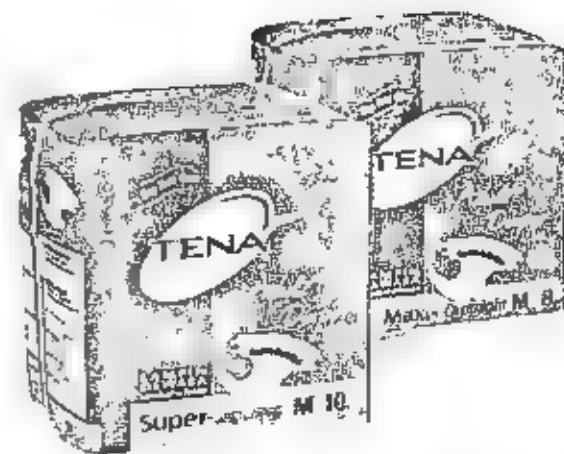
(Follow the WORM's adventures every Saturday at Super! Email this spineless vermin at [tasengnomatt@yahoo.com](mailto:tasengnomatt@yahoo.com).)



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M.I.

Last Name

Sex:

Birth Date

M

D

Y

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First Name

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Last Name

Relation to User

Relative

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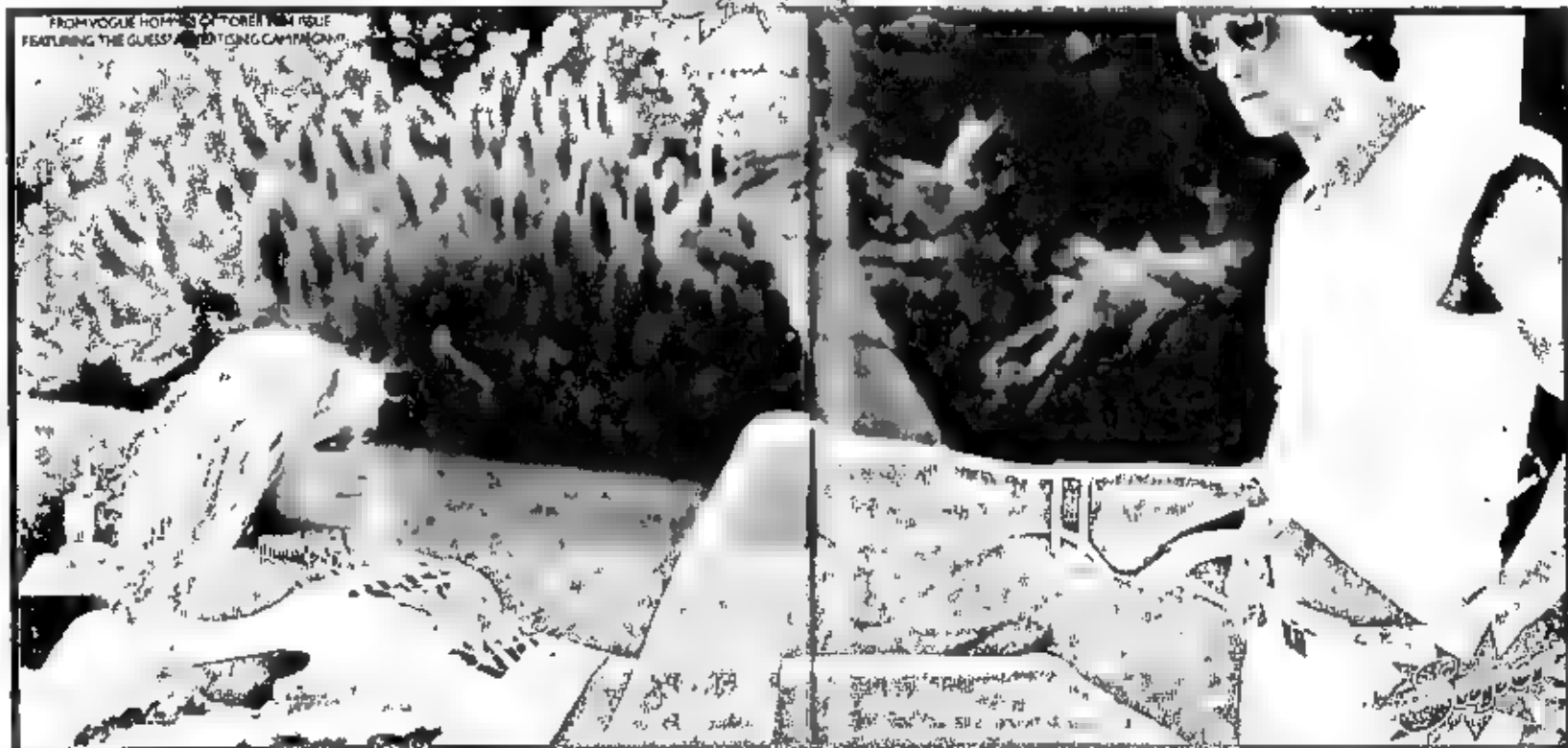
Super Medium (Day Care)  
Maxi Medium (Night Care)

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PPI 1009

# Oh caption, my caption!

This Week's  
Challenge



CAPTION: Roses are red, violets are blue. I have sex tapes, and so will you!

By Gino de la Paz

UNLESS you've been hiding under a huge rock, you should be familiar with the name Paris Hilton. First, there was the partying, the paparazzi photos, and the infamous sex tape. Next came "The Simple Life," her book, and yes, another sex tape! (Paris just loves making sex tapes, don't you think? This new one involves her ex, Nick Carter.) Now, comes the creative captions from you, the readers. Again, nothing sexual. (We're still atoning for some of the Colin and carabao captions we printed three weeks ago. Haha! Oops.)

Though this photo was not—I repeat, was not—taken from the latest Paris video to hit the black market, it still has the same airhead heiness, sex kitten vibe that makes Paris a totally watchable and absolutely loveable ditz. Lifted from her Guess? campaign, here we see Paris sunbathing after her morning prayers and inviting her hunky poolboy for a round of bingo. Okay we're letting our imaginations run amok here, but really, that's your job. So hop to it, Paris troopers! E-mail us at [super@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:super@inquirer.com.ph) Latest!



"Parating na ang mga Mulawin!!!"  
SENDER: Cris G. Arciaga

Oh readers, awesome readers! Super! Had to wade through about a million or so e-mail entries this week to screen the next winner for our contest.

After that, our noses grew by a foot for trying about the exact number of captions we had in our inbox. But seriously, this week yielded more gems than usual, making us realize that there are so many Pinoy out there with a penchant for puns. So where do we begin, mga tsong?

On the one hand, close to a dozen of you were inspired by shampoo commercials. "Mahangin ba sa labas?" and "Sunusunod sa galaw mo!" Great! On the other, a handful got ideas from politics itself. "Hair excellency, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo." Genius! But the one that kept us rolling on the ground and slapping our knees in, they were bloody was from Cris G. Arciaga, who deftly combined a nod to the country's current "it" teen-ovela with the president's hair situation. Two thumbs way up, Cris! For your prize, contact our Super! Dooper! Marketing babes Hazel or Ching at 897-8808.

Of course, we also have to give props to the following who made us chuckle harder than usual:

Benj Page  
"I SEE DEAD PEOPLE!"  
Wendy dela Cruz  
GMA. I'm not a morning person.  
Jowanna B. Bueser  
Now Showing: Hair Force One

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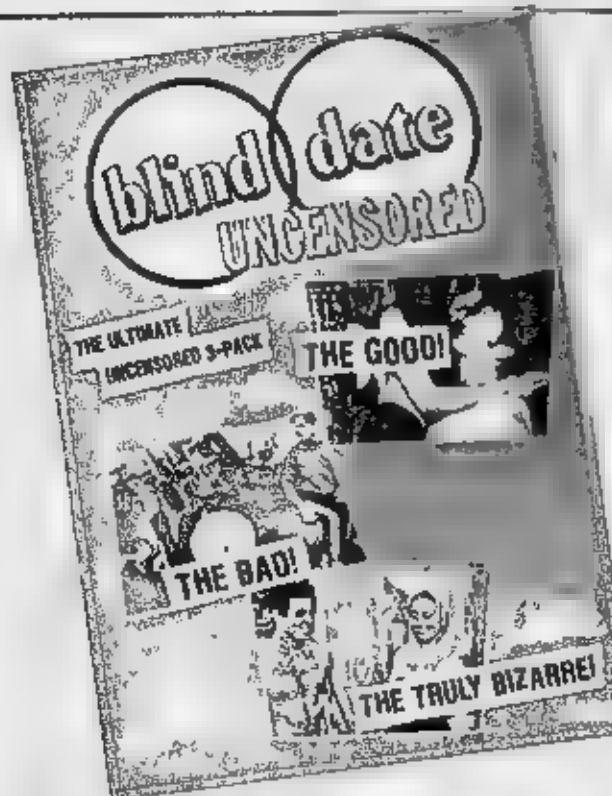
Promo period: September 26 to October 31, 2004

See Sports for details. For DTLMCR Permit No. 4614 Series of 2004

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## SATURDAY



MODEST Mouse in the house

**SM MALL ORTIGAS ENTERTAINMENT LIVE**

**FURRY TALES**

October 9, 2004  
Saturday  
10am onwards  
Mega A, Atrium

featuring the best animal talents of your favorite celebrities!

Celebrities include: Pia Guanio, Paula Peralta, Francis Magalona, Vince Hizon, Karylle, Bianca Arana, Tessa Prieto-Valdez

Activities: Face Painting • Fashion Show with Dogs • Photo Contest

POWER BOOKS PAWS

## First date: a music odyssey

There's a playbook to creating the quintessential CD for this milestone—makes a great souvenir, too.

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz



THERE'S a full moon out and it's giving you some really weird energy. You're in your dad's ride, presumably with only a ton of Taco Bell wrappers decorating the dashboard. Looking over your shoulder like a Syrian defense minister, you go nuts in Arabic in your mind, even if you don't speak a word of it. So between stoplights, you check your camera-ready and way-quotable self on the rearview and reflect for a moment: "Breath mints? Check. Deodorant? Check. Cash? Yup. Trojans? Hell, yeah!"

Then, as the hot person riding shotgun slings her hand over your knee, your groin gets a good tightening, making you go from 0 to 100 in, like, two seconds. Anticipation is piling in from all directions because, yes, you are an id-driven dude on his first-ever date and you don't want to screw up royally. In the middle of the sensory glut, you hit the play button, hoping to layer in some much-needed music to the dead air. However, instead of Interpol or Snow Patrol or Rooney, your little sister's old Spice Girls CD blasts out of your speakers—a sure invitation to ridicule. Your 20-inch subs could be bass-enhanced vacuum cleaners right now. But miraculously, your arm candy is not grossed out and in fact, she hums along cheerfully to "Say You'll Be There" and whatnot. At that point, you mop off the sweat gathering above your brow and manage a dorky, pants-pissing guffaw. Ha. You, my dear boy, are lucky that this first date debacle didn't turn into a life-and-death drama.

And really, it shouldn't. There's a school of thought—mine—that says the express lane to romance could easily turn into the long road to hell without the proper background music. (After all, we're guilty of sound-tracking memorable occasions, regardless of how relevant or not, they still are in this age of instant gratification, dates are no exception.) Together with a smooth outfit, a megawatt smile, and average-to-killer conversational skills, the right mix CD—or tape, for the five of you out there still holding on to the dream—can transform you from a random Thursday night Joe into a discerning Romeo from another planet. Conversely, a cheesy anthology involving jams from the likes of, say, Kenny G, Michael Bolton or Josh Groban, can and will hurt your date's feelings on a colossal level, leaving her stoic and you unable to butzkrig your way into her pants, er, heart. Indeed, the mix CD is a two-way conundrum. So with tongue firmly in cheek, please allow me to share this all-too-friendly how-to since, with-

FIRST DATE/E2

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# First date: a music odyssey

From page E1

out a doubt, there's a playbook to creating the quintessential first date mix CD. (It makes a great souvenir, too.)

## All about range

In medieval times, a.k.a. the '80s, the mix tape was a balance of saturation and distortion. These days, the mix CD is all about range. The first few songs that you play as you motor around are crucial in high-siding your status as a pop culture vulture and the world's most flexible man, at least when it comes to music:

1) Pixies, "Here Comes Your Man" (1989). Frank Black 101 for her, appropriate introduction for you. Starting off with a classic presents the depth of your MP3 database in a charmingly rugged way.

2) Thicke, "When I Get You Alone" (2003). It wouldn't hurt to suggest hot jungle love with some Beethoven mixed in with a little Stevie Wonder, now wouldn't it? And if it comes from Los Angeles' answer to Jamiroquai, it's bound to be sheer class.

3) Kanye West, "We Don't Care" (2004). Keep it real with this year's most prolific producer-performer this side of P Diddy Land. Personally, this is my favorite jam from his debut "College Dropout" because it reminds me of the knockout fish tacos in Santa Monica, California. As Outkast says, "So fresh, so clean." Party in the hizzle.

4) Modest Mouse, "The View" (2004). End the intro part with something from this highly original Washington trio. "The View" is taken from the lo-fi gem, "Good News for People Who Love Bad News." SS. The band is set for a cameo performance in "The OC" Season 2!

## Time to woo her

At this point, you should be done with the stock dinner-and-movie portion of the evening and

you're on your way to tipping a few cocktails, or brewskis, if she's a rough-and-tumble kind of gal. Since you've already established yourself as an ardent counter-elite, it's time to hint that you're a slow-rolling stud who's out to woo her, not a date-raping, panty-collecting caveman on a killing spree. These songs should do the trick:

5) A1, "Kelly Watch The Stars" (1998). High '90s Moog music from France, so needless to say it's suave like Pepe Le Pew. She'll dig it especially if her name is, um, Kelly.

6) Mazzy Star, "Fade Into You" (1993). Who knew that Hope Sandoval's lazy, otherworldly vocals would make this forgotten track from "So Tonight That I Might See" an instant prom fave? Play it and watch her bury her head in your shoulder.

7) Wilco, "I Am Trying To Break Your Heart" (2002). You may really be a roughhousing liberal arts dropout, but she'd assume you were a sensitive Philosophy major with this standout from "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot." You should get away with it if you don't mention how you boozed it up between classes.

8) Chris Cornell, "Sunshower" (1997). This is something the night-crawling masses will never think of playing, so you get points for creativity. Taken from the "Great Expectations" soundtrack, it can also serve double-duty and help you greet the sunrise. Sweet.

9) Les Nubians, "Come Sunday" (2001). Show me I'm gentle! Track 5 from the soul jazz tribute to Duke Ellington, "Red Hot + Indigo," is right on the money in the romance department. It's Sade without the muzak baggage!

## Fog it up

If you did the job right, you should be able to say dumbass



NOT RELATED to this article, but I have to say it. Rachel Bilson and Mika Kauri could be sisters

comments like, "If 'Survivor: Vanuatu' culminated with a public beheading instead of a nightly tribal council, the ratings would shoot right through the roof," and she'd still think you had hung the moon. Granted you can find your sea legs in a haze of Vanilla Coke and rum, it's time to dial it up a notch and make out, with the following in the ambience:

10) The Eels, "Damn I Wish I Was Your Lover" (1996). Recorded live from Vancouver's The Starfish Room, this deep and dark cover of Sophie S. Hawkins' 1992 hit would make your tiny lady slow-dance in no time.

11) Paul Weller, "Wishing On A Star" (2004). Pitchfork the Beyoncé version to the side for once and give this one a spin. This is from the Modfather's current collection of covers, "Studio 150," so it's guaranteed you will become the Jude Law to her Sienna Miller. Or Johnny English at least.

12) Superdrag, "Sucked Out" (1996). From slow dance to pogo dance, it's important to know how—but more importantly, when—to rock the casbah. Who sucked out the FEELIN'? Now we're talkin'.

13) Phantom Planet, "Hey Now Girl" (2002). Because of

my love for this kind of music, my friends started calling me "banana," a person who is yellow on the outside and completely white on the inside. Anyhoo, I don't care. On the rare occasion that I will be asked to DJ, I will play only tracks from this band over and over. And over.

14) The Thrills, "Big Sur" (2003). Instead of the Lucky Charms leprechaun, these Irish lads channel the Beach Boys, a much better vibe for some ad hoc tonsil hockey action. Yeah, it's also groovy like a koi pond.

## Last ditch effort

Having watched enough episodes of "Blind Date" and "Fifth Wheel" to write a book on the subject, you now know that most modern chicks have wised up to knuckle-draggers who think they can get some nookie after the first date. Being an enthusiastic person, however, you still think you can go from first to fourth base with these upbeat songs:

15) Stealers Wheel, "Stuck In The Middle" (1973). Hopefully she won't read too much into the line that goes "Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right" and just see the sexy bear that you are, sophisticated beyond his years.

16) The Killers, "Somebody Told Me" (2004). This lead-off track from the CD "Hot Fuss" has a very seedy Vegas cabaret feel and recalls the sounds of video-poker addicts, shrimp buffets and yes, strippers. Maybe she'll get the hint. I mean, Las Vegas is the sexiest place to hang out in the planet, right?

## The drive home

Possible late-night up-chucks aside, now's the time to add some contrast. You didn't get your freak on but at least you're booked for Date #2. With the



HYPERMILL FROM VEGAS. The Killers are the new new wave

evening ending earlier than expected, you have a small window of time before Pop starts looking for his car and Mom calls for a search party. Remember five immortal words from your unsatisfied inner party animal—"Chug if you're fun, dude!"—you try to down a gallon of beer in one go. For the road.

17) Robbie Williams, "Rock DJ" (2000). "Wave your hands if you're not with the man!" goes England's beloved chunky and thoroughly self-deprecating pop star. Bask in your near-conquest

with this one before you sober up and turn the car into an absolute vomitorium.

18) The Streets, "Weak Become Heroes" (2002). Not giving a crap about tempo or anything like that, Mike Skinner's idle cadence underscores ultimate geek redemption. He's like the Seth Cohen of Birmingham, England and because of that, he's twice as clever. It's a TMI, or totally must listen, in my book.

19) Whitesnake, "Here I Go Again" (1987). Go out with a bang with this thn I jockey, frat boy, g.am rock road song. It's not about your date anymore as it is about blasting your shitty standard CD player as loud as possible and wearing a permanent ass groove onto the driver's seat. Now that you know better you realize that driving is fun like the running of the bulls in Pamplona. With thoughts of your second date and its corresponding mix CD swirling in your cranium, you check yourself in the rearview mirror once again, smugly pat the Trojan in your wallet, and put the pedal to the heavy metal. And away you go, driving your hatchback into the sunrise like it was a Thunderbird.



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offer a little  
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# Hail hail spit 'n' drool

One hour was enough to convince me that this band  
will conquer the world

By Johan Egger  
Contributor

**I**N APRIL 2001 I watch a bunch of cocky Swedes dressed in black and white tell the hundred people gathered in a tiny university venue in Sweden that they are about to conquer the world. The band is a warm-up act. The band is called The Hives.

An hour later, I believe that they might actually be able to conquer the world.

In February 2002 I watch a bunch of cocky Swedes dressed in black and white tell the two thousand people gathered in a long-sold out university venue in Manchester England, that they are about to conquer the world. The band has got style. The band is called The Hives.

An hour later I am convinced that they will actually be able to conquer the world.

In 2004 a bunch of cocky Swedes dressed in black and white have sold hundreds and hundreds of thousands of copies of the compilation "Your New Favourite Band." The band has toured from Tokyo to Trondheim, and reintroduced rock in the mainstream. The band already conquered MTV with the fantastic rock epic "Hate To Say I Told You So." The band is now about to conquer the world. The band is called The Hives.

I "Hate To Say I Told You So," but I saw this coming.

## Interesting music

Fagersta, Sweden, a small industrial town where boredom is the ruler, is home to one of rock music's most interesting bands. Fagersta is the home of The Hives. Just like the industrial Mecca, Manchester, once proved that boredom is a requirement for interesting music, the inseparable The Hives and Fagersta, have again proved that this is indeed the case. Just as Manchester gave us Stone Roses, The Smiths, Oasis, and Joy Division, Fagersta has given us the The Hives, and The Hives have just given us their third album, "Tyrannosaurus Hives."

## Mechanic rock

"Tyrannosaurus Hives" is more of everything. More style—The Hives look better than ever before. More attitude—the title in itself is a good indication. More melodies—the band now adds a touch of the Ramones to the mechanic rock, adding atmosphere without losing edge. More mystique—the members of the band still stick to their artistic names, and the band still claim

that a mythical figure called Randy Fitzsimmons once put the band together and is still writing all the songs. More brilliant titles—try the following: "Abra Cadaver," "Two-Timing Touch And Broken Bones," and "A Little More For Little You." This last one is the most brilliant song of the year.

## Hive lyrics

"All this time all they ever told me to was to get a little lie to ring a little true."

You spent your time just like they said you should now. Those marks on your face just don't look any good.

And all this time all they told you to was get a little

more for your little you."

Howlin' Pelle Almqvist, Nicholas Arson, Chris Dangerous, Dr Matt Destruction, and Vigilante Carlstrom are back, and you are gonna like what you are about to hear. The Hives offer a little more for little you.



THIS BAND has got style

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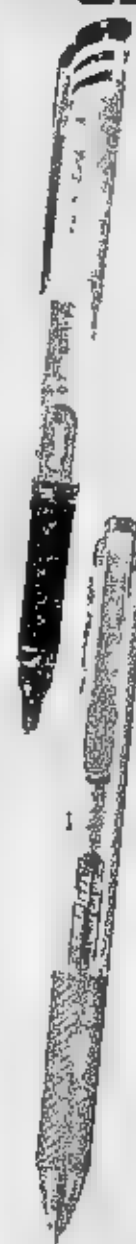
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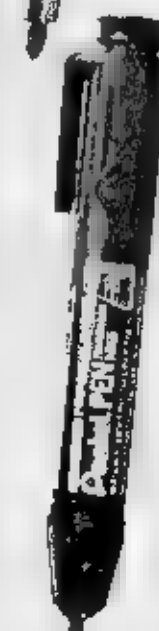
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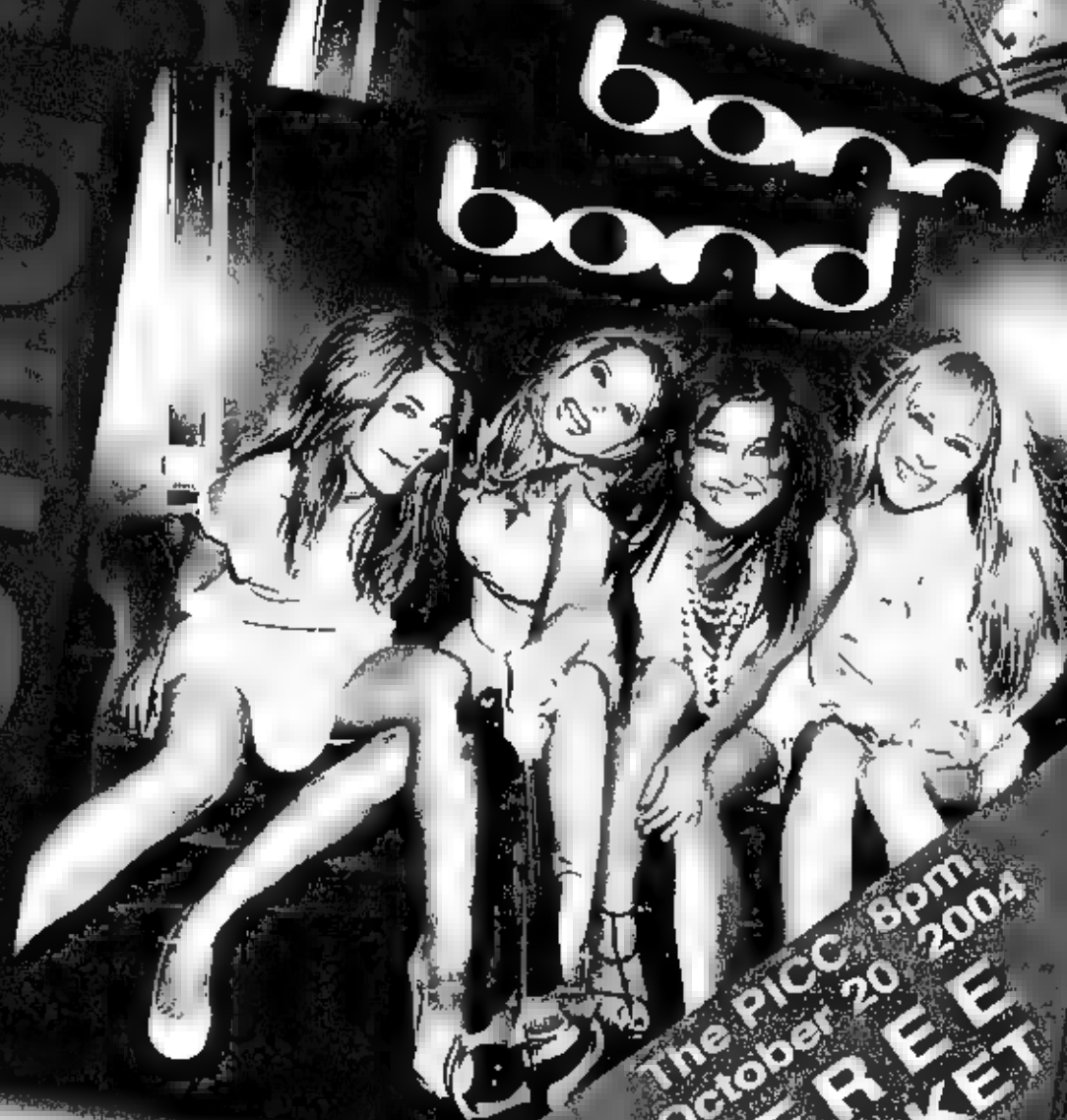
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BONDR5	Samba	Bond

For ringtones, text **TONE** <keyword> to 209  
For polytones, text **POLY** <keyword> to 209

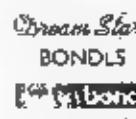
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## JM Rodriguez— Overachiever or underrated performer?

By Tim Yap  
Photo by Steve Tirons

**F**ROM lead roles onstage, he hopped "on air" and tickled us with his wisecracks and savvy spiels on Studio 23.

One of the few who have successfully crossed over from theater to mainstream television, there is nothing mainstream about JM Rodriguez. Keeping his indie cool even in the thick of show biz kirsch, this guy is one bundle of energy and talent—his peers in the industry know this all too well.

After his breakthrough roles in shows like "Rent," "Darna" and a host of Repertory plays and musicals, the most sensible thing for this unmitigated longgo to do is to break into recording. He chose the path of a VJ and comedy actor instead. His impeccable comic timing, shaped by years of thespic training served him well. It is a surprise that the networks fail to see this fact.

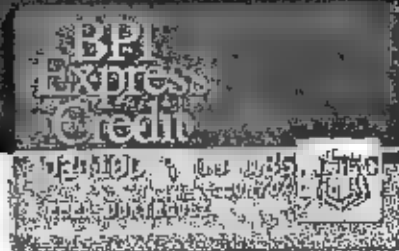
Now moving on (their batch of Studio 23 VJs—Bianca Araneta and Thia Chong-bian's contracts will expire this month), JM sets his sights on new things, new shows and new adventures to conquer.

JM/F3



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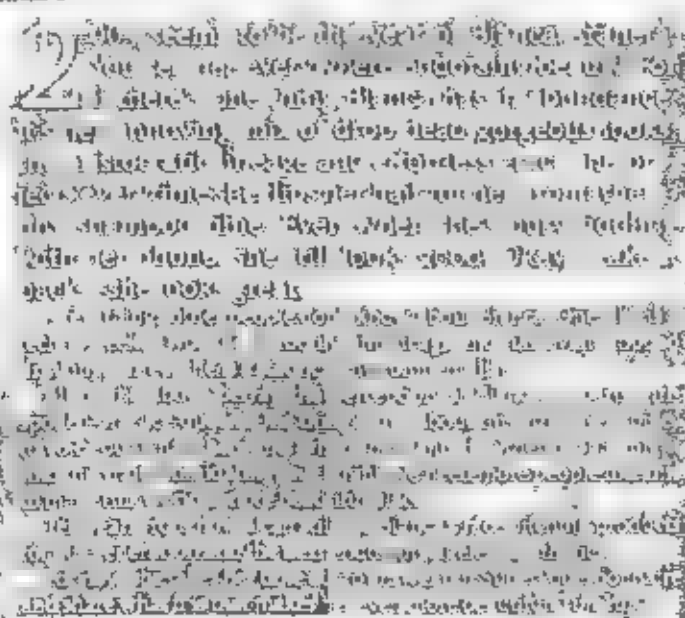


Doors open at 10am.  
Show starts at 4pm.

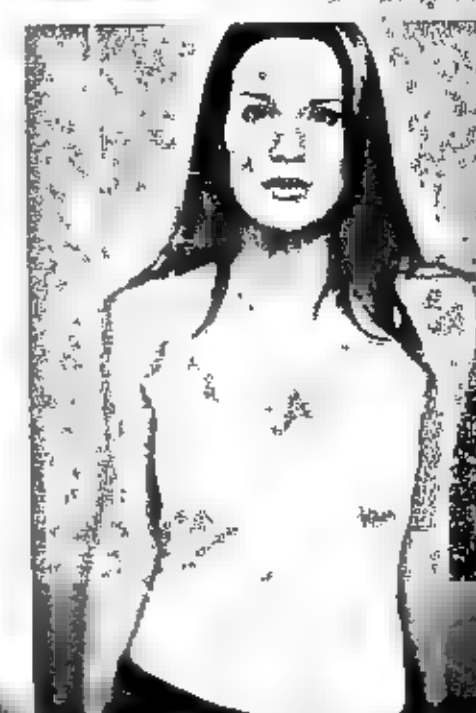
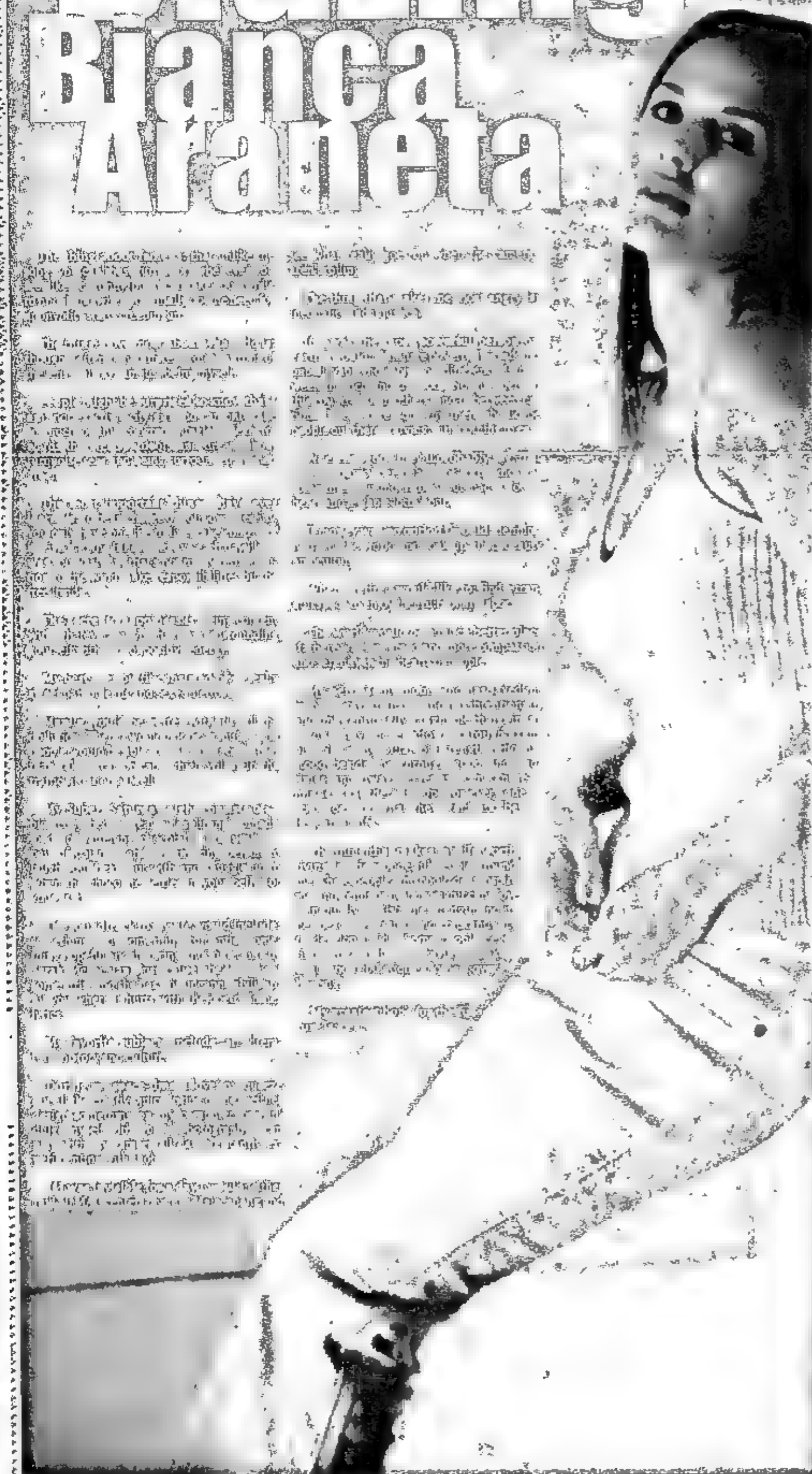
You have six hours to find a spot with a good view of Jasmine Trias singing "love ko 'to" at Glorietta, October 9. Megamall, October 10



Make Jasmine's song your own. Download her ringtone by typing lovekoto, then send it to 2366



# Blazing Blanca Alfalfa



Produced by TIM YAP  
Photography: STEVE TIRONA  
Photo assistant:  
MARCUS MAGUIGAD  
Makeup: XENG ZULUETA of Shu Uemura





10

The image shows a single page from the Voynich manuscript, labeled '10' in the top left corner. The page contains two columns of text written in the Voynich script. The script is a complex system of symbols, including circles, lines, and dots, which are arranged in a way that suggests a structured language. The text is written in a dark ink on aged, slightly discolored paper. The overall appearance is that of a historical document, possibly a book or a set of notes, that has been preserved for centuries.



# Blazing Blanca Amanita

1. 1990年12月15日，在北京市召开的“中国环境与发展”高层论坛上，江泽民总书记发表了重要讲话，指出：“中国的环境问题，已经到了非抓不可的时候了。环境问题不仅是一个经济问题，也是一个政治问题。我们决不能走一些发达国家走过的老路，决不能走先污染后治理的老路。我们必须在经济发展的同时，把环境保护放在突出的位置，实行可持续发展战略。”

*(The following information was obtained from the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.)*

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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and their corresponding addresses. The names are listed in the left column, and the addresses are listed in the right column. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, and Bob Johnson. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, and 789 Oak St.

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions, both incoming and outgoing. It emphasizes that this practice is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in financial management.

2. The second part outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze data, highlighting the role of statistical analysis in identifying trends and patterns over time. This section also addresses the challenges associated with data collection and the need for robust quality control measures.

3. The third part focuses on the development of effective communication strategies, stressing the importance of clear and concise reporting to stakeholders. It provides guidance on how to present complex information in an accessible format, facilitating better decision-making at the organizational level.

4. Finally, the fourth part explores the integration of technology into financial systems, discussing the benefits of automation and digital tools in streamlining processes and reducing errors. It also touches upon the security considerations involved in adopting new technologies.

707 m. 1958-1960

1. 2014年12月31日，甲公司“应付账款”科目所属各明细科目期末贷方余额如下表所示：

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*[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]*

6.  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$

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*(The following section contains musical notation for the song "I'm Gonna Sing You a Song".)*

1. 1990年12月，在“中国—东盟”领导人非正式会议上，中国领导人正式提出“中国—东盟自由贸易区”的构想。

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*Journal of Management Studies*, 1987, 20(6), 671-682

Year	Total (%)	White (%)
1950	7.5	7.5
1960	8.5	8.5
1970	9.5	9.5
1980	10.5	10.5
1990	11.5	11.5
2000	12.5	12.5
2010	13.5	13.5
2020	14.5	14.5
2030	15.5	15.0
2040	16.5	15.5
2050	16.5	15.5

1000



Produced by TIM YAP  
Photography: STEVE THOMA  
Photo assistant:  
MARCUS MAGUIGAD  
Makeup: XENG ZULUETA of Sku Unnaira

# SATURDAY JM Rodriguez—Overachiever...

From page F4

**The thing about fame is:**  
It is fleeting, so you should never get attached to it because at the end of the day what is most important in life is that you are appreciated by the people who matter to you.

**The thing I love most about what I do is**

I get to make a living out of my passion for singing, acting and hosting.

**People might be surprised to know that I am:**

Moody, critical and sensitive.

**The most important thing I have ever learned is:**

You cannot change people, but you can try to change yourself.

**I wish when I started off I'd been told that:**

Having a lot of friends is good, but keeping a handful of trustworthy ones is better.

**The worst thing that ever happened to me was:**

Being rushed to the emergency room

after an accident.  
**And what this taught me was:**  
To be cautious and responsible.

**The happiest moment of my life was:**

Bowing to the standing ovation of an international audience.

**The secret to happiness is:**

Being at peace with yourself and others.

**My best ever outfit consisted of:**

A kick-ass t-shirt, a great pair of jeans and sneakers.

**Manila would be better without:**

Poverty.

**My Super! Saturday night consists of:**

Laps in the pool, a sumptuous dinner with friends or family, a few drinks and dancing, and then a full eight hours sleep.

**The soundtrack to my life would include:**

Free by Ultra NATE—You're free to do what you want to do... you gotta live your life. In My Life—All the music is

sweet but the song ain't complete now in my life.

**Seasons of Love—Measure your life in LOVE.**

**My favorite subjects include:**  
Music, English, Oral English, Chemistry.

**During my spare time, I love to:**

Swim, run and try new restaurants.

**If I were invisible for a day I would**

Make "boso."

**The thing that makes me most angry is:**

Manipulative and inconsiderate people.

**If I were the most powerful person on earth I would**

Pay the national debt and rid our country of poverty and make Manila the Broadway of Asia.

**The best thing about family is:**

They will always be there for you no matter what.

**When I'm gone they'll probably say**

That guy was crazy but he was talented.

**If money were no object, I would:**  
Spend half the year in Manila and the other half in New York. Fly a few of my friends with me to New York, London, then Ibiza.

**When I retire I would like to:**

Have improved the status of theater in the Philippines.

**The world would be a much better place if:**

We accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative.

**My hero is:**

My family, because they're irreplaceable. They have showered me with so much love. I cannot imagine living my life without them.

**The thing that makes my life worth living is**

Having family and friends to grow old with.

**My greatest hope for the future is:**

Advancement in technology, the cure to cancer and other sicknesses and, of course, world peace.



ALL ORIGINAL. JM Rodriguez's indie-cool

**bench**

**lifestyle clothing**

[www.benchtm.com](http://www.benchtm.com)



## Lahat Ng Pumutok Sa Takilya, Dito Nila Maririnig.

### PINAKA nakakatawa



Pido Dida  
code: IA207



Pido Dida 2  
code: IA206



Singles  
code: IA276



I Will Survive  
code: IA191



Batang Quiapo  
code: IA252



Starzan  
code: IA209



Gagambay  
code: IA257

### PINAKA nakaka-in love



I Think I'm  
in Love  
code: IA260



Ano Bang  
Meron Ka?  
code: IA246



Pakisabi  
Na Lang  
code: IA268



Anghel  
Sa Lupa  
code: IA245



Makiusap Ka  
Sa Diyos  
code: IA266



Pahiram ng  
Isang Umaga  
code: IA267



Relasyon  
code: IA203

### PINAKA nakakapangilabot



Sanib  
code: IA274



Bahay Ni Lola  
code: IA250



Tiyanak  
code: IA282



Spirit Warriors  
code: IA281



The ShortCut  
code: IA284



Shake Rattle  
& Roll 2  
code: IA285



Dahas  
code: IA256

### PINAKA madrama



Mano Po  
code: IA202



Mano Po 2  
code: IA201



Sinungaling  
Mong Puso  
code: IA280



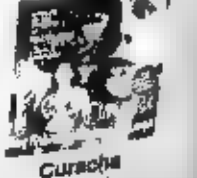
The Treasure of  
Yamashita  
code: IA283



Hubog  
code: IA287



Kuya  
code: IA288



Gurocha  
code: IA289

### PINAKA marami! PINAKA Regal!

Bawat tawag sa iyo, riot sa aliwi Kaya mag-download na ng drama, comedy, horror, o sexy na ringback tone, dito lang sa myGlobe Ringback!

Text the <CODE> to 2332 Example: Text IA201 to 2332

To listen to a ringback, text H+space+keyword to 2332 Ex. Text H IA201 to 2332 You will receive a text message to call 2332.  
For more ringback tones, go to the myGlobe WAP site. Under What's Hot, click on myGlobe Ringback.  
Rates: P38/download for 30 days. P2.50 per info request. P5/min call.

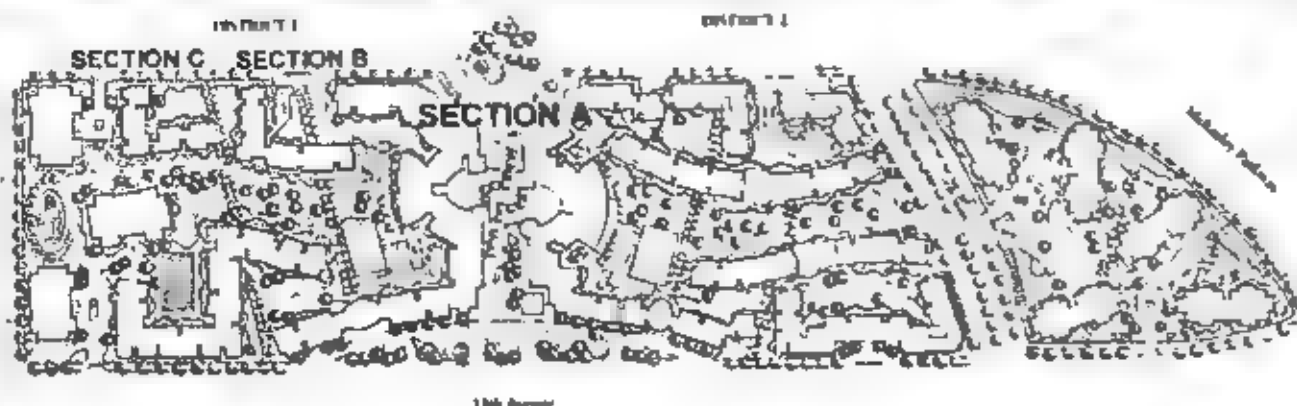


making great things possible **Globe**  
HANDYPHONE



# Serendra

An AYALA Community



## home garden

HAVE you ever imagined that it could be possible in a garden," Leandro "Andy" Locsin, Jr. remarked. Locsin's architectural firm, LV Locsin Partners, is the architectural consultant for Serendra, the newest residential community development of Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) and Community Innovations, Inc. (CII) at the Bonifacio Global City.

A low-density residential community Set on a 12-hectare development site, Serendra is envisioned to be a low-density residential community with a cluster of low to mid-rise sections surrounded by open spaces, greenery, and landscaping that will occupy as much as two thirds or about 65 percent of the total area. "I think the developers are trying to break new ground in terms of a new typology for condominium design," Locsin noted, "with a very high degree of civic-mindedness about the environment, about not over building, and being quite generous about gardens. I suppose you would feel much more human in a place like this."

"One of the primary objectives of the project was not to go fully high-rise," Locsin explained, "much like what you see in many European cities where mid-rise apartments have a much more human scale as opposed to the gigantic towers where you feel very detached from the ground. In this particular project, one of the points of reference was really for the buyer or the resident to feel that somehow they were attached to the garden below."

The garden is the most prominent feature "The garden became a very prominent feature of the whole development, pocket gardens, and then the main garden in the center," Locsin remarked. Garden-level units open out to the main gardens and terraces where you can enjoy your coffee at sunrise or cocktails in the evenings. Or if your unit is in a higher floor, you only have to go down a few flights and out into the yard, like what you might do if you lived in a house with a backyard, where you can kick a ball around or jump in a pool.

Serendra's master plan followed European building tradition characterized by multi-level housing units that afford residents different kinds of views and wide, open spaces.

Multi-level, Low to Mid-rise Sections Make Serendra Special

"Section A, in both Districts of the development, go from six stories to nine stories," Locsin explained, "while Sections B and C of District 1 will have from seven to about 17 stories. When you look at the entire area in elevation, the building starts at a very low level where the retail area is at the center, and then sort of bend up on both sides.

The building gets exponentially higher as you go outwards. There is recognition that the property is high value and people who will buy and build in the surrounding areas are not going to put low buildings. So it will be surrounded by tall buildings, which makes Serendra even more special, with its low to mid-rise feature as a very strong selling point."

Santa Monica-based MRY Architecture infused with Asian-Filipino theme as designed by Locsin Serendra was designed by Santa Monica-based Moore Ruble & Yaddell Architects, in collaboration with the team of Andy Locsin.

MRY, the award-winning firm was chosen for the way they handled densities in their developments, the curvilinear and serpentine buildings, the open spaces, and the clustering of buildings around these spaces, which they applied in Serendra. Locsin was recruited to "use all the elements and influences into one visual whole and create an Asian-Filipino theme for the buildings."

"The bahay na bato, the pseudo-colonial adaptation of the bahay kubo, became the source of inspiration of the architecture. We worked with MRY to develop that language," Locsin revealed. "If you look at how it was put together, there is a tripartite division of the architecture. You have a heavy base that is articulated in stone, and then a lighter upper body with some transparencies and cantilevers, and a pitched roof that caps the structure. It is actually a peculiar thing. You cannot do it linearly because you cannot take a classical bahay na bato and stretch it out that long. It will simply look weird. The idea is to take the essence of the architecture and re-interpret it."

A design solution inspired by indigenous architecture

"In essence, all Sections have shared features," Locsin noted. "The feeling is similar. But with more stories in Sections B and C, what is very clear is that you cannot do exactly the same thing as Section A. This business of just a base and a body and then a roof doesn't quite work on a slightly taller building. So we added this element, which again was inspired by our indigenous architecture."

We took the tukod or bracket that is commonly used to keep the windows of the bahay kubo open. We still had the base and body, but at the topmost floors, we introduced the tukod, so the roof became wider. They support the end of the eaves and they actually carry rainwater. It's not totally the literal tukod of the bahay kubo. For one thing, it's made of steel. The adaptation cut the long body into a more human scale."

"It is architecture that has not been done here on that kind of scale," Locsin remarked, "but it has this look that is clearly very different from anything you have ever seen. More than anything, Serendra is a people-driven place. It is halfway between a house and a condo. And the gardens, I think, will be its strongest and most defining feature."







## A modern-contemporary home at Serendra

"SPARKLE! This is what we wanted to emphasize, the sparkle of the unit," remarked interior designer, Marion Coscolluela. Together with daughter, Mara Coscolluela-Quiñal, Marion designed the 3-bedroom model unit of District 1 in Serendra - the innovative, mid-rise condominium building development of Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), Community Innovations Inc. (CII), and the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) at the Bonifacio Global City.

"You notice the sparkle in the mirrors and the glass and everything else, including the chandelier and other lighting fixtures," Marion expounded. The mirrors also helped open up the space. "But we didn't put mirrors just for the sake of putting them," Mara explained. "We had to study the space. There is a reason why you have mirrors on one side of the room and not on the opposite wall."

You immediately experience this sense of space as you enter the foyer. You notice the niche where the image of Quan Yin, Goddess of Mercy, seemed to float. It actually sits on a plexi-glass base that juts out of the wall. The niche added depth to the otherwise narrow space. "The entry point pretty much dictated how we fixed this particular unit," Mara noted.

There is no division between the living and dining areas. "We kept the space open," Marion explained, "since it is also the access from the kitchen to the main door. We did not put a wall in between or even a low partition." The efficient layout of the spacious Serendra condominium allows the potential homeowners to create a great design for their unit without having to spend more on re-doing the entire layout. In the model unit, the interior designers did not have to do any structural changes. No changes were done on the floor and there was no need to re-configure the walls. "We simply brought down the ceilings a bit to accommodate the lighting fixtures that we wanted to put. The ceiling is also used to define each space," Mara pointed out. "This is the basic unit as it would be turned over to the buyer."

Marion defined the style they used as modern-contemporary. It is basically the style they are well-known for and sought after. "People sometimes perceive modern as too cold, but it depends on the material used. The contemporary softens it," Mara explained. "It's a warmer approach but at the same time fresh."

A bit of the Oriental touch is found in the accessories and accent pieces. Even the plants have that bonsai look. The lines are clean but not flat, with attention given to texture, whether it's the texture of the glass bowl on the coffee table or the wood beads of the placemats on the dining table. The artwork on the wall of the dining area is particularly ar-

resting. It is a palm leaf etched on metal. "The carving adds depth," Marion pointed out. "While it is made of metal, it does not come across as very cold." The rich texture of silk and suede is found in the upholstery. The generous-sized throw pillows underscore the overall feeling of comfort and abundant space.

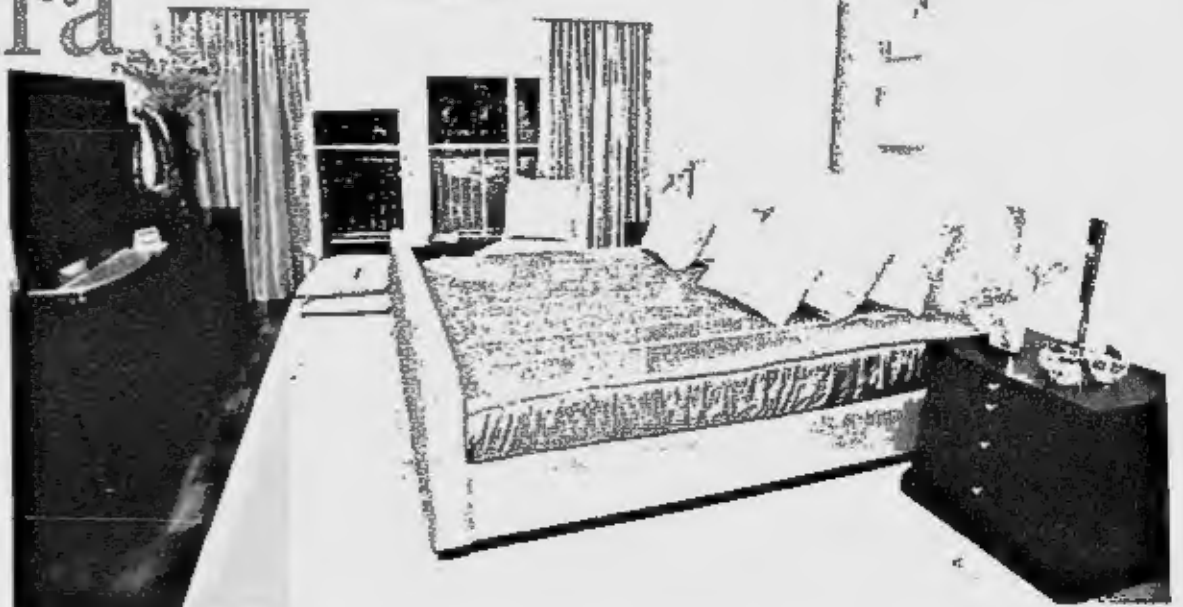
Taupe and mocha with touches of green were the colors used. "Our palette is muted," Mara remarked, "because it's always easier to add more color later on." The same applies to accessories. "You can just keep adding stuff," Mara remarked. "We give the owner that space where they can add whatever they want to add later on. So when they walk in, they don't feel that it's already so full and crowded."

"Most of our clients go for the uncluttered look," Marion noted. "At the same time, they also ask for storage space." This is the challenge in most condominiums with limited space. But with its efficient layout, enough space is provided in the Serendra condominium. Storage space can also be found incorporated in the furniture, Marion explained. "Our night tables have drawers or cabinets, and we also make use of shelves. In the master bedroom, we have a credenza with drawers that provide ample storage space."

A king-size bed dominates the master bedroom with room to spare for a sitting area. A built-up on the wall behind the bed was done to achieve a recessed portion that also serves as a headboard. The walk-in closet is a welcome feature that adequately answers the need for storage space. A study table finds its place at one end of the hallway just outside the master bedroom, "for the lady of the house." One of the two other bedrooms was transformed into a den with a plasma TV for entertainment. The 3-bedroom units at Serendra District 1, with floor areas ranging from 170 to 300 sqm, are ideal for families with teenagers, with enough room for individual privacy, rest, and relaxation as well as space for bonding moments with the family.

Kitchens in Serendra are roomy enough for your basic appliances and allow you to move freely within that space. The maid's room adjacent to it can even fit a double-deck bed to accommodate perhaps more than one helper to maintain the 3-bedroom unit, which is suitable for a fairly sized family. The laundry room can easily hold a good-sized washer and dryer without being crowded.

"This condo unit meets all the requirements of a home," Marion noted. "It is really like a complete house." At Serendra, a lifestyle of understated elegance in the comforts of a spacious home is yours, even while you enjoy the delightful convenience of condominium living.



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# The Serendra Pavilion: Prelude to a dream community

*Make no small plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood.*

-Daniel Burnham, city planner

QUIETLY nestled within the Bonifacio Global City's rolling fields is an impressive, one-storey structure tucked beneath a row of tall, mahogany trees. Situated in the middle of sprawling greens, Serendra's Sales Pavilion is a breath of fresh air amidst the high-rise structures that have proliferated all over this central business district. A gallery-cum-showroom, the Sales Pavilion, with its landscaped pocket gardens, trellises and gazebos, replicates the environment, atmosphere and ambience of what will soon stand as Ayala Land's latest development in cooperation with Community Innovations Incorporated (CII) and the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), Serendra.

The result of an intense collaboration among a team of four architects, nine interior designers, a team of landscape

architects along with Ayala Land's in-house team of designers, the Serendra Pavilion is the first of its kind. While typical residential developments use mainstream model units with tiny offices as sales tools, Serendra utilizes the wide, open spaces at the Bonifacio Global City as a backdrop for its 2000 sq. m. Sales Pavilion. "Potential buyers get a feel of what Serendra will be like through their experience at the Sales Pavilion," says architect Edwin Yabut, department manager at CII.

The Serendra Pavilion's expansive driveway-the focal point of which is a calming water feature - leads to a garden surrounding the structure's perimeter. With architectural elements such as trellises and a gazebo dotting the extensive open space, one immediately experiences how Serendra offers a garden

paradise in the middle of a busy, urban district. Its contemporary exterior clues potential buyers in on Serendra's modern take on Filipino architecture-a bahay na bato-inspired structure that puts a modern spin on traditionally Filipino elements such as lanterns, large windows and free-flowing spaces.

The same grandiose quality is carried over to the Sales Pavilion's interiors. Designed by architect and interior designer Bernie Miranda (Oakwood, One Roxas Triangle, Greenbelt 3 Cinemas), the Pavilion's high ceiling and wide, open plan areas conjure an inviting and friendly atmosphere. "When one thinks of a showroom, one immediately has ideas of elegance and opulence," says Miranda. "With the Serendra Pavilion, we wanted to create a space that's not



SERENDRA/G4



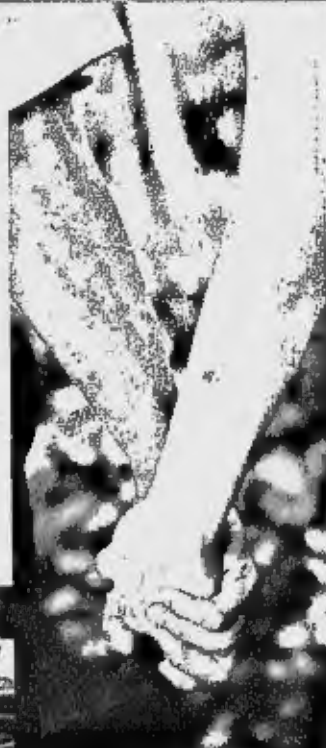
Chilled drinks and warm laughter by the poolside. Moonlit strolls along cobblestone walks. The serenade of the breeze through the trees as you held hands. Postcard perfect moments all. And definitely not what you'd expect to find a mere 10 minutes from the heart of Makati. But here at Serendra, you'll find that you don't need to go far to get away from it all.



*You'd write home about it, but then again, that's where you already are.*



Built in the highly accessible Bonifacio Global City area, Serendra is 12 hectares of sprawling gardens, tree-lined walkways, wading pools, playgrounds, and charming residential units that marry European-inspired masterplanning and Filipino warmth and sensibility. You'll also find game rooms, restaurants, and multi-purpose courts. It's near several prestigious schools, hospitals, and some of the world's best shopping as well.



Where other residential properties force you to choose between accessibility and space, Serendra gives you both and more. It's far enough from the daily grind to make you forget the tedium of the rat race. It's near enough to make sure families have more time together. And spacious enough to make sure such moments are enjoyed to the full.

Serendra. We're sure you'd love to visit. But we'd rather you made yourself at home instead.



*Serendra*  
An AYALA Community

Your family's sanctuary in the city.

A joint venture of

AYALA LAND, INC.

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.  
An AYALA Company

Now, there's more of Serendra to explore and experience. District 1 Sections B & C are now being offered. For inquiries, call Ayala Land, Inc. at 848-5000, email: serendra@ayalaland.com.ph or visit [www.serendra.com](http://www.serendra.com). HLURB License to sell no.: 10412 and 10464.



# Renewed interest for Serendra seen with the launch of garden view units

*Serendra offers homes with beautiful garden views*

Almost all units now have garden views but a selected few will have premium add-ons like wraparound views (from three sides of the unit) along with full height glass windows in the master's bedroom to better enjoy the allure of Serendra's lush surroundings. Owning a unit here also makes a perfect refuge from the hurried life in the city.



GUESTS tour the various elegantly designed model units at the Serendra Pavilion



THE RECENT event at Serendra featured hundred-year-old Bonsai trees to highlight the development's unique garden concept

SALES are expected to reach a high note for Serendra, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) and Community Innovations, Inc. (CII)'s newest residential community development at the Bonifacio Global City, as investors and interested homebuyers flocked to the recent launching of its new sections with more "Garden View units."

According to Kate Ilagan, ALI senior division manager, the garden view feature sparked renewed, if not greater interest for Serendra. "We gained valuable feedback from the successful sales turnout of Section A. This actually helped us with the enhancements applied in District 1 Sections B and C in Serendra such as bigger units with generous balconies."

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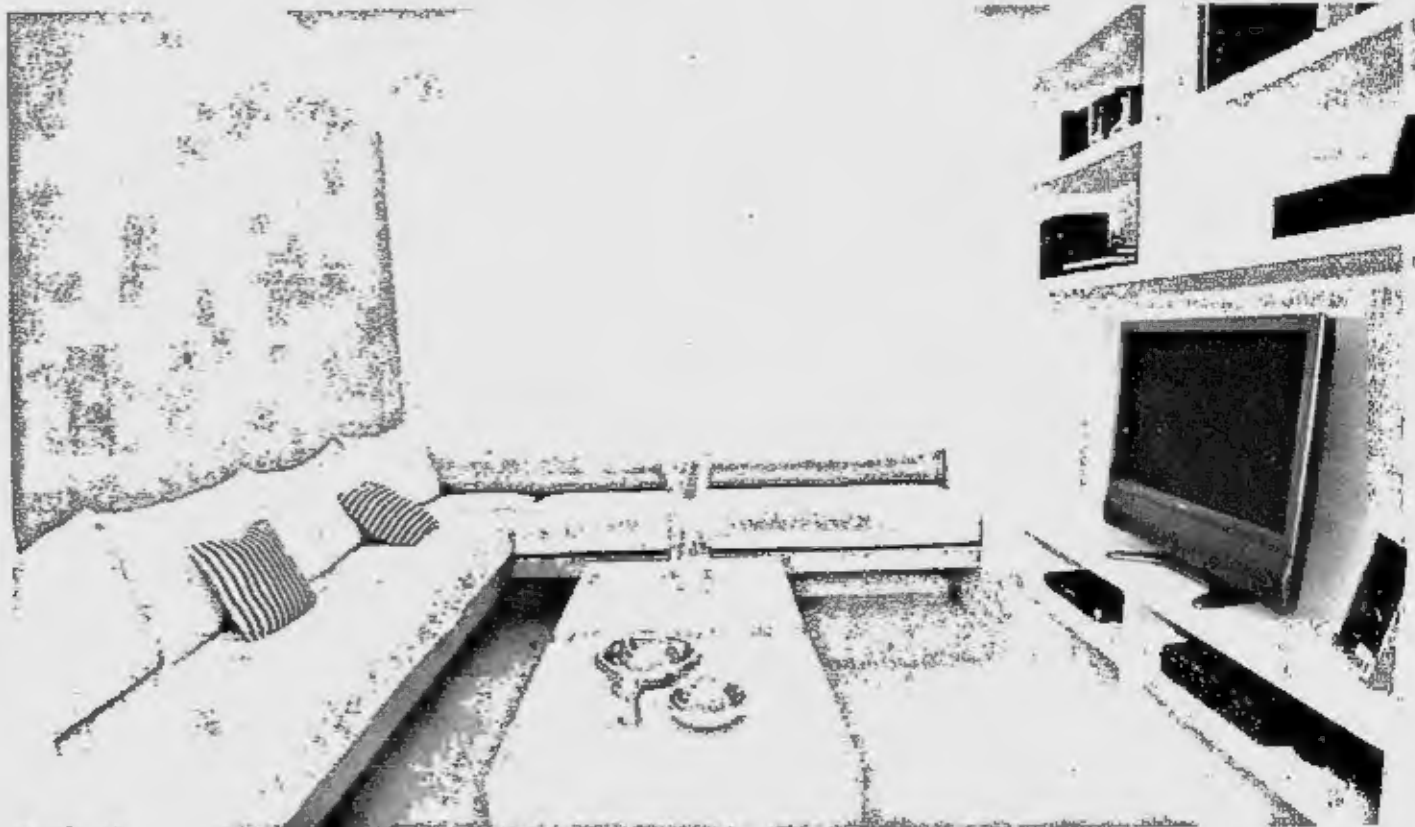
The development, composed of low to mid-rise sections set amidst wide open spaces and various themed gardens, allows a lot of room to play, relax, stroll, lounge, or simply hang out. Serendra is designed to give its residents a different lifestyle; a community that is more people-oriented, a place where people interact with one another, a healthy environment.

Ilagan admits that there has been clamor for bigger, higher units in other sections of Serendra but, "We are all committed to the vision of this project. Its concept is unique so we feel we should be faithful to it."

As Serendra launches more exciting new sections, Ilagan further asserts, "We remain true to our promise and that is what we are going to deliver."



GUESTS take a look at the Serendra scale model featuring the newest addition to the development: District 1 Sections B and C



THE FAMILY room at Serendra's special three-bedroom model unit. This unit, designed by Anna Sy, was first opened to the public during the recent launch.

## The Serendra Pavilion: Prelude to a dream community

From page G3

Intimidating. Something contemporary and simple that today's young generation can identify with."

While Serendra may be grand in scale, the Pavilion welcomes its patrons with a tangible familiarity that is comfortable and non-threatening. The large circular receiving area opens into a large sales lobby, which houses an extensive scale model of the development as well as nooks where potential buyers can interact on a personal level with Ayala Land's sales representatives. What started out as a design inspired by a museum or an art gallery slowly evolved into a homey structure, which directly translates and shows

potential buyers the quiet and serene lifestyle offered by Serendra. "The atmosphere is very relaxed," says Miranda, who explains that walking into the Serendra Pavilion is almost like walking into a friend's living room.

"The Serendra Pavilion is definitely a differentiating factor," Yabut says. While residential developments in the United States are sold through model units, Asian countries such as Hong Kong, Singapore, China and now the Philippines have taken a bigger, more extravagant leap with these large and expansive showrooms. With a selling area of 500 sq. m., it also houses a bookstore where people can read and

purchase specialty books, a play area for children to spend time in, and eight different model units that showcase the works of top Filipino interior designers. "We designed the Pavilion such that as Serendra grows, we can reconstruct model units and build up new interiors without disrupting the flow of activity in the main building," explains Yabut.

"We built the Serendra Pavilion as a marketing showroom. The building is not intended to distract from that main purpose," says Miranda. Transacting business, however, is not the be all and end all of the Pavilion. Its wide, outdoor spaces and play area allow young

couples to bring their kids along while they walk through the pavilion. The bookstore, adjacent to the model units, showcases design books, which supplement the experience of walking through the already designed areas. "The sales pavilion is a focused space," Yabut explains. "Rather than dilute its purpose with a coffee shop or an actual retail area, we intentionally put the bookstore to complement the Pavilion's main function and still provide a space where people can hang out and interact."

With the Serendra Pavilion, Ayala Land once again makes its mark as a pioneer in community development. The first of its

kind in the country, it sets the trend in marketing, customer care and retail architecture. Complemented by the grandeur of the Port's lush and extensive greenery, the familiar quality brought about by Filipino-inspired architecture and the sensibilities of European town planning and landscaping, the Serendra Pavilion is only the beginning of what promises to be today's premiere residential and community development.

For inquiries about Serendra, please call 848-5000 or 849-0551, or e-mail at [serendra@ayalaland.com.ph](mailto:serendra@ayalaland.com.ph). Located along 26th Street Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, the Serendra Pavilion is open daily from 9am to 8pm.



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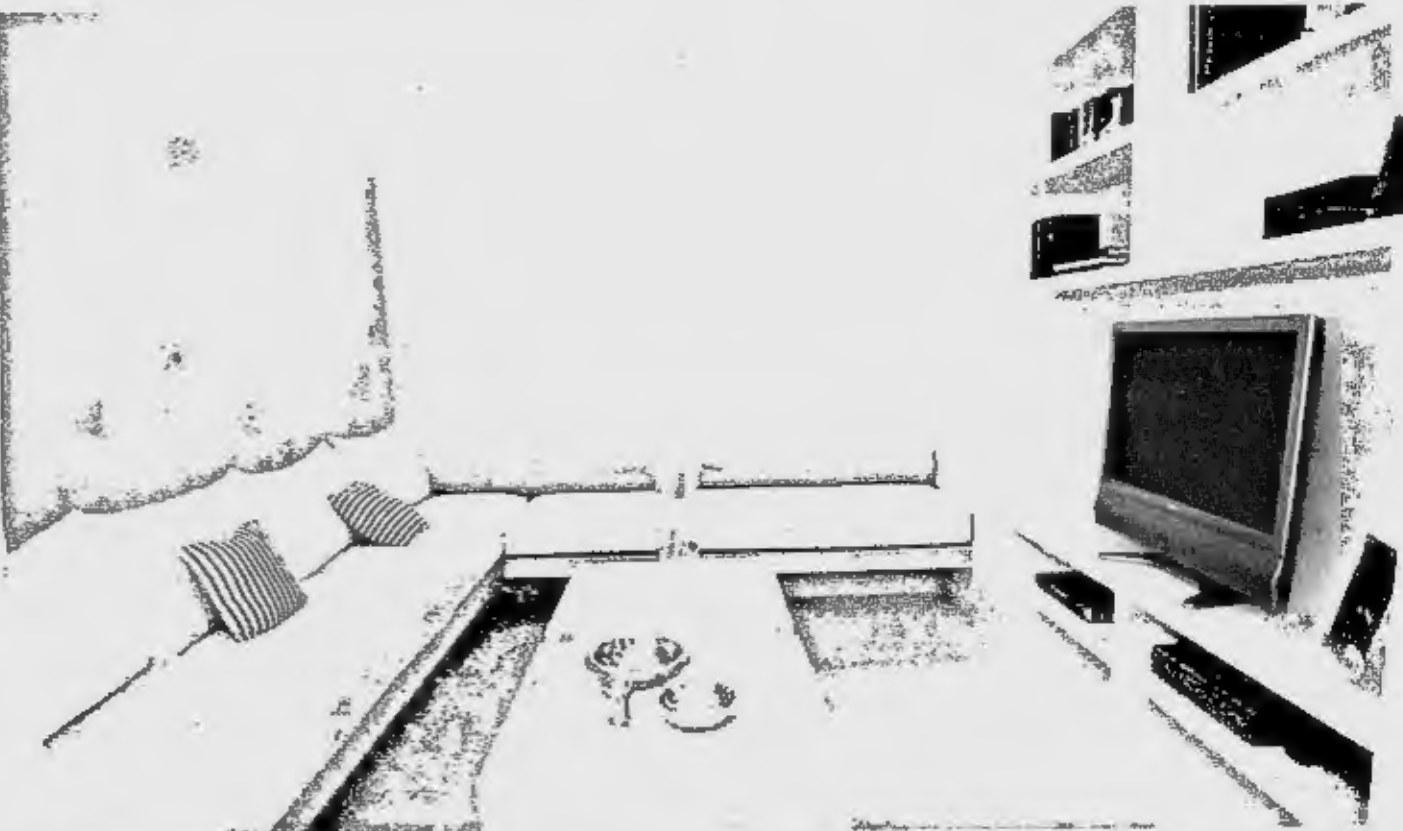
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